

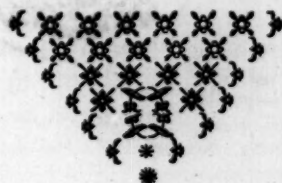
THE  
A P O C R Y P H A  
A T L A R G E.

W I T H  
NOTES and COMMENTS.

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By the Rev. WILLIAM LUKE PHILLIPS,  
Late of PEMBROKE COLLEGE, Oxford.

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THE

APPROPRIATE

AT A R. C. E.

WITH

NOTES and COMMENTS

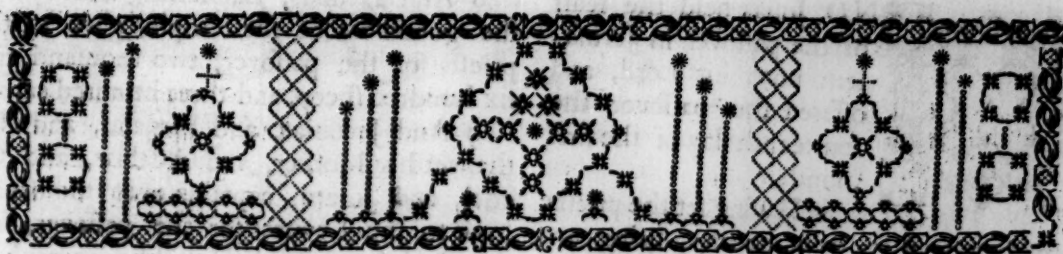
THE REV. WILLIAM L. GOSSET

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# A P O C R Y P H A.

## THE FIRST BOOK OF E S D R A S.

### THE ARGUMENT.

*Those Books of Scripture which are stiled Apocryphal were not received by general consent, nor read and expounded publickly in the church, nor admitted to prove any point of doctrine, except where they are conformable to the other Scriptures. The term is Greek, and deriv'd from ἀποκρυψω, to hide; probably, because the authors of these books are generally unknown. The first book of Esdras, (say the authors of the Universal History) is no other than the first book of Ezra, with a variety of fabulous circumstances, particularly that of the three young men of Darius's guard; who for their exquisite wisdom in answering his questions, are there pretended to have obtained, among other marks of his favour, the liberty of returning to Jerusalem, and of rebuilding the temple. The Greek church is the only one that holds it among the canonical books. Dr. Prideaux says this book is for the most part a bundle of fables, too absurd even for the papists, who reject it, though they receive Judith and Tobit.*

### CHAP. I.

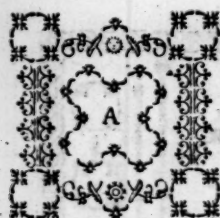
1 Josias his charge to the priests and Levites.  
7 A great passover is kept : 32 His death

is much lamented : 34 His successors. 53  
The temple, city, and people are destroyed.  
56 The rest are carried unto Babylon.

B

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AND Josias held the feast of the passover in Jerusalem unto his Lord, and offered the passover the fourteenth day of the first month,

2 Having set the priests according to their daily courses, being arrayed in long garments, in the temple of the Lord.

3 And he spake unto the Levites the holy ministers of Israel, that they should hallow themselves unto the Lord, to set the holy ark of the Lord in the house that king Solomon the son of David had built :

4 And said, Ye shall no more bear the ark upon your shoulders: now therefore serve the Lord your God, and minister unto his people Israel, and prepare you after your families and kindreds,

5 According as David the king of Israel prescribed, and according to the magnificence of Solomon his son: and standing in the temple according to the several dignity of the families of you the Levites, who minister in the presence of your brethren the children of Israel,

6 Offer the passover in order, and make ready the sacrifices for your brethren, and keep the passover according to the commandment of the Lord, which was given unto Moses.

7 And unto the people that was found there, Josias gave thirty thousand lambs, and kids, and three thousand calves: these things were given of the king's allowance, according as he promised to the people, to the priests, and to the Levites.

8 And Helkias, Zacharias, and Syelus, the governors of the temple, gave to the priests for the passover, two thousand and six hundred sheep, and three hundred calves.

9 And Jeconias, and Samaias, and Nathanael his brother, and Assabias, and Ochel, and Joram, captains over thousands, gave to the Levites for the passover, five thousand sheep, and seven hundred calves.

10 And when these things were done, the priests and Levites having the unleavened bread, stood in very comely order according to the kindreds,

11 And according to the several dignities of the fathers before the people, to offer to the Lord, as it is written in the book of Moses: and thus did they in the morning.

12 And they roasted the passover with fire, as appertaineth: as for the sacrifices, they sod them in bras pots, and pans, with a good savour,

13 And set them before all the people: and afterward they prepared for themselves, and for the priests their brethren, the sons of Aaron.

14 For the priests offered the fat until night: and the Levites prepared for themselves, and the priests their brethren, the sons of Aaron.

15 The holy singers also, the sons of Asaph, were in their order, according to the appointment of David, to wit, Asaph, Zacharias, and Jeduthun, who was of the king's retinue.

16 Moreover the porters were at every gate, it was not lawful for any to go from his ordinary service: for their brethren the Levites prepared for them.

17 Thus

#### NOTES ON Chap. I.

Ver. 1 *Josias held the feast, &c.*] This prince is called Josiah by the sacred writers, and their account of this feast may be seen, 2 Kings, xxiii. 21. 2 Chron. xxxv. 1.

8 *Sylus*] Or Jehiel, 2 Chron. xxxv. 8.

9 *Seven hundred.*] Or, five hundred, 2 Chron. xxxv. 9.

11 *And thus did they in the morning.*] See 2 Chron. xxxv.

12. And so of the bullocks.

12 *Roasted the passover with fire, &c.*] Exod. xii. 8. *With a good savour*] Or, with good speed, or willingly. 2 Chron. xxxv. 13.

15 *According to the appointment of David.*] 2 Chron. xxxv. 15. Of David and Asaph.

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17 Thus were the things that belonged to the sacrifices of the Lord accomplished in that day, that they might hold the passover,

18 And offer sacrifices upon the altar of the Lord, according to the commandment of king Josias.

19 So the children of Israel which were present, held the passover at that time, and the feast of sweet bread seven days.

20 And such a passover was not kept in Israel since the time of the prophet Samuel.

21 Yea, all the kings of Israel held not such a passover as Josias, and the priests and the Levites, and the Jews held with all Israel that were found dwelling at Jerusalem.

22 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josias was this passover kept.

23 And the works of Josias were upright before his Lord, with an heart full of godliness.

24 As for the things that came to pass in his time, they were written in former times, concerning those that sinned, and did wickedly against the Lord above all people and kingdoms, and how they grieved him exceedingly, so that the words of the Lord rose up against Israel.

25 Now after all these acts of Josias, it came to pass that Pharaoh the king of Egypt came to raise war at Carchamis upon Euphrates: and Josias went out against him.

26 But the king of Egypt sent to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, O king of Judea.

27 I am not sent out from the Lord God against thee: for my war is upon Euphrates, and now the Lord is with me, yea, the Lord is with me hastening me forward:

depart from me, and be not against the Lord.

28 Howbeit Josias did not turn back his chariot from him, but undertook to fight with him, not regarding the words of the prophet Jeremy, spoken by the mouth of the Lord:

29 But joined battle with him in the plain of Magiddo, and the princes came against king Josias.

30 Then said the king unto his servants, Carry me away out of the battle; for I am very weak: and immediately his servants took him away out of the battle.

31 Then gat he up upon his second chariot, and being brought back to Jerusalem, died, and was buried in his fathers sepulchre.

32 And in all Jewry they mourned for Josias, yea, Jeremy the prophet lamented for Josias, and the chief men with the women made lamentation for him unto this day: and this was given out for an ordinance to be done continually in all the nation of Israel.

33 These things are written in the book of the stories of the kings of Judah, and every one of the acts that Josias did, and his glory, and his understanding in the law of the Lord, and the things that he had done before, and the things now recited, are reported in the book of the kings of Israel and Judea.

34 And the people took Joachaz the son of Josias, and made him king instead of Josias his father, when he was twenty and three years old.

35 And he reigned in Judea and in Jerusalem three months: and then the king of Egypt deposed him from reigning in Jerusalem.

36 And he set a tax upon the land of an hun-

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15. *Of the king's retinue.]* The king's fear. 2 Chron. xxxv.

24 *And did wickedly.]* Or, were ungodly.  
*They grieved him exceedingly.]* Or, sensibly.

25 *After all these acts, &c.]* See 2 Chron. xxxv. 20.

34 *And the people took Joachaz, &c.]* Rather, Jehohaz.  
See 2 Kings xxiii. 30. 2 Chron. xxxvi. 1.

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hundred talents of silver, and one talent of gold.

37 The king of Egypt also made king Joacim his brother king of Judea and Jerusalem.

38 And he bound Joacim and the nobles: but Zaraces his brother he apprehended, and brought him out of Egypt.

39 Five and twenty years old was Joacim, when he was made king in the land of Judea and Jerusalem, and he did evil before the Lord.

40 Wherefore against him Nabuchodonosor the king of Babylon came up, and bound him with a chain of brass, and carried him unto Babylon.

41 Nabuchodonosor also took of the holy vessels of the Lord, and carried them away, and set them in his own temple at Babylon.

42 But those things that are recorded of him, and of his uncleanness, and impiety, are written in the chronicles of the kings.

43 And Joacim his son reigned in his stead: he was made king, being eighteen years old;

44 And reigned but three months and ten days in Jerusalem, and did evil before the Lord.

45 So after a year, Nabuchodonosor sent and caused him to be brought into Babylon, with the holy vessels of the Lord,

46 And made Zedechias king of Judea and Jerusalem, when he was one and twenty years old, and he reigned eleven years:

47 And he did evil also in the sight of the Lord, and cared not for the words that were spoken unto him by the prophet Jeremy from the mouth of the Lord.

48 And after that king Nabuchodonosor

had made him to swear by the name of the Lord, he forswore himself, and rebelled, and hardening his neck, and his heart, he transgressed the laws of the Lord God of Israel.

49 The governors also of the people and of the priests did many things against the laws, and passed all the pollutions of all nations, and defiled the temple of the Lord, which was sanctified in Jerusalem.

50 Nevertheless, the God of their fathers sent by his messenger to call them back, because he spared them and his tabernacle also.

51 But they had his messengers in derision; and look when the Lord spake unto them, they made a sport of his prophets:

52 So far forth, that he being wroth with his people for their great ungodliness, commanded the kings of the Chaldees to come up against them;

53 Who slew their young men with the sword, yea, even within the compass of their holy temple, and spared neither young man nor maid, old man nor child among them, for he delivered all into their hands.

54 And they took all the holy vessels of the Lord, both great and small, with the vessels of the ark of God, and the kings treasures, and carried them away into Babylon.

55 As for the house of the Lord, they burnt it, brake down the walls of Jerusalem, set fire upon her towers.

56 And as for her glorious things, they never ceased till they had consumed and brought them all to nought: and the people that were not slain with the sword, he carried unto Babylon.

57 Who became servants to him and his children,

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39 Joacim.] Jehoia-  
kim, or Eliakim. See 2 Chron.  
xxvi. 4, 5.

43 Joacim.] His name was Eliakim, but called Jehoia-

kim by Pharaoh Nechoh, who made him king instead of Jehoahaz, carrying the latter with him to Egypt.

47 He did evil, &c.] See Jeremiah, ch. xxv.



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children, till the Persians reigned to fulfil the word of the Lord spoken by the mouth of Jeremy :

58 Until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths, the whole time of her desolation shall she rest unto the full term of seventy years.

## C H A P. II.

1 *Cyrus is moved by God to build the temple, 5 and giveth leave to the Jews to return and contribute to it : 11 He delivereth again the vessels which had been taken thence. 25 Artaxerxes forbiddeth the Jews to build any more.*

**I**N the first year of Cyrus king of the Persians, that the word of the Lord might be accomplished, that he had promised by the mouth of Jeremy :

2 The Lord raised up the Spirit of Cyrus the king of the Persians, and he made proclamation through all his kingdom, and also by writing,

3 Saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of the Persians, The Lord of Israel the most high Lord, hath made me king of the whole world,

4 And commanded me to build him an house at Jerusalem in Jewry.

5 If therefore there be any of you that are of his people, let the Lord, even his Lord be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem that is in Judea, and build the house of the Lord of Israel ; for he is the Lord that dwelleth in Jerusalem.

6 Whosoever then dwell in the places about, let them help him (those, I say, that are his neighbours) with gold and with silver,

7 With gifts, with horses, and with cattle, and other things, which have been set forth by vow, for the temple of the Lord at Jerusalem.

8 ¶ Then the chief of the families of Judea, and of the tribes of Benjamin stood up: the priests also, and the Levites, and all they whose mind the Lord had moved to go up, and to build an house for the Lord at Jerusalem,

9 And they that dwelt round about them, and helped them in all things with silver and gold, with horses and cattle, and with very many free gifts of a great number, whose minds were stirred up thereto.

10 King Cyrus also brought forth the holy vessels which Nabuchodonosor had carried away from Jerusalem, and had set up in his temple of idols.

11 Now when Cyrus king of the Persians had brought them forth, he delivered them to Mithridates his treasurer.

12 And by him they were delivered to Sanabassar the governor of Judea.

13 And this was the number of them, A thousand golden cups, and a thousand of silver, censers of silver twenty nine, vials of gold thirty, and of silver two thousand four hundred and ten, and a thousand other vessels.

C

14 So

57 *To fulfil the word of the Lord, &c.]* See Jer. xxv. 11. and xxix. 10.

58 *Until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths, &c.]* i. e. During the full term of seventy years, at which time, Cyrus the Great mounted the Persian throne.

*Shall she rest]* Or, keep sabbath.

## NOTES on Chap. II.

Ver. 1 *In the first year of Cyrus king of the Persians, &c.]* Cyrus succeeded Cambyses in the kingdom of Persia, and Darius the Mede, in the kingdom of the Medes, and empire of Babylon. The prophets had frequently foretold

the coming of Cyrus ; and Isaiah had been so particular, as to declare his name above a century before he was born. See Ezra i. 1.

5 *He is.]* Or *this.*

9 *With horses and cattle.]* Heb. substance. See Ezra i. 6.

12 *They were delivered to Sanabassar, &c.]* Rather, Shashbazzar : the first part of the word is corruptly joined to that preceding it. See Ezra i. 8.

13 *Censers.]* Hebrew, knives.

*Two thousand four hundred and ten, &c.]* The number mentioned, Ezra i. 10, is four hundred and ten.

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14 So all the vessels of gold and of silver, which were carried away, were five thousand four hundred threescore and nine.

15 These were brought back by Sanabassar, together with them of the captivity, from Babylon to Jerusalem.

16 But in the time of Artaxerxes king of the Persians, Belemus, and Mithridates, and Tabellius, and Rathumus, Beeltethmus, and Semellius the secretary, with others that were in commission with them dwelling in Samaria and other places, wrote unto him against them that dwelt in Judea and Jerusalem, these letters following ;

17 To king Artaxerxes our Lord, thy servants Rathumus the story-writer, and Semellius the scribe, and the rest of their counsel, and the judges that are in Celosyria and Phenice.

18 Be it now known to the Lord the king, that the Jews that are come up from you to us, being come into Jerusalem (that rebellious and wicked city,) do build the market-places, and repair the walls of it, and do lay the foundation of the temple.

19 Now if this city, and the walls thereof be made up again, they will not only refuse to give tribute, but also rebel against kings.

20 And forasmuch as the things pertaining to the temple are now in hand, we think it meet not to neglect such a matter,

21 But to speak unto our Lord the king, to the intent, that if it be thy pleasure, it may be sought out in the books of thy fathers :

22 And thou shalt find in the chronicles what is written concerning these things, and shalt understand that that city was rebellious, troubling both kings and cities :

23 And that the Jews were rebellious, and raised always wars therein ; for the which cause even this city was made desolate.

24 Wherefore now we do declare unto thee (O Lord the king) that if this city be built again, and the walls thereof set up anew, thou shalt from henceforth have no passage into Celosyria and Phenice.

25 Then the king wrote back again to Rathumus the story-writer, to Beeltethmus, to Semellius the scribe, and to the rest that were in commission, and dwellers in Samaria, and Syria, and Phenice, after this manner ;

26 I have read the epistle which ye have sent unto me : therefore I commanded to make diligent search, and it hath been found, that that city was from the beginning practising against kings.

27 And the men therein were given to rebellion and war, and that mighty kings and fierce were in Jerusalem, who reigned and exacted tributes in Celosyria and Phenice.

28 Now therefore I have commanded to hinder those men from building the city, and heed to be taken that there be no more done in it.

29 And that those wicked workers proceed no further to the annoyance of kings.

30 Then king Artaxerxes his letters being read, Rathumus, and Semellius the scribe, and the rest that were in commission with them, removing in haste towards Jerusalem with a troop of horsemen, and a multitude of people in battle array, began to hinder the builders ; and the building of the temple in Jerusalem ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of the Persians.

CHAP.

14 *Five thousand four hundred threescore and nine.*] The number is five thousand four hundred in Ezra i. 11.

16 *In the time of Artaxerxes.*] See Ezra iv. 7, &c.

*Rathumus.*] Rathumus, and the name which followeth, is

but an epithet for the former. See Ezra iv. 9.

*Semellius the secretary.*] Shimshai. Ezra iv. 8.

30 *A multitude of people, &c.*] Rather, a great number of soldiers.

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## C H A P. III.

4 *Three strive to excel each other in wise speeches.* 9 *They refer themselves to the judgment of the king.* 18 *The first declareth the strength of wine.*

**N**OW when Darius reigned, he made a great feast unto all his subjects, and unto all his household, and unto all the princes of Media and Persia.

2 And to all the governors and captains, and lieutenants that were under him, from India unto Ethiopia, of an hundred twenty and seven provinces.

3 And when they had eaten and drunken, and being satisfied were gone home, then Darius the king went into his bed-chamber, and slept, and soon after awaked.

4 Then three young men that were of the guard, that kept the king's body, spake one to another,

5 Let every one of us speak a sentence : he that shall overcome, and whose sentence shall seem wiser than the others, unto him shall the king Darius give great gifts, and great things in token of victory :

6 As to be clothed in purple, to drink in gold, and to sleep upon gold, and a chariot with bridles of gold, and an head-tire of fine linen, and a chain about his neck :

7 And he shall sit next to Darius, because of his wisdom, and shall be called Darius his cousin.

8 And then every one wrote his sentence, sealed it, and laid it under king Darius his pillow,

9 And said, That when the king is risen, some will give him the writings, and of whose side the king and the three princes of

Persia shall judge, that his sentence is the wisest, to him shall the victory be given, as was appointed.

10 The first wrote, Wine is the strongest.

11 The second wrote, The king is the strongest.

12 The third wrote, Women are strongest, but above all things, truth beareth away the victory.

13 ¶ Now when the king was risen up, they took their writings, and delivered them unto him, and so he read them.

14 And sending forth he called all the princes of Persia and Media, and the governors, and the captains, and the lieutenants, and the chief officers,

15 And sat him down in the royal seat of judgment, and the writings were read before them :

16 And he said, Call the young men, and they shall declare their own sentences. So they were called, and came in.

17 And he said unto them, Declare unto us your mind concerning the writings. Then began the first, who had spoken of the strength of wine ;

18 And he said thus, O ye men, how exceeding strong is wine ! it causeth all men to err that drink it :

19 It maketh the mind of the king, and of the fatherless child, to be all one : of the bondman and of the freeman, of the poor man and of the rich :

20 It turneth also every thought into jollity and mirth, so that a man remembereth neither sorrow nor debt :

21 And it maketh every heart rich, so that a man remembereth neither king nor governor ;

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## NOTES on Chap. III.

Ver. 4 *Three young men, &c.*] Josephus has given a large account of this transaction, in which are several particulars not mentioned by the author of the book of Esdras. *Antiq. Judaic.* l. 11. ch. iv.

10 *The first wrote, wine is the strongest.*] Josephus tells us, that the questions recorded in this, and the two following verses, were proposed by Darius himself, to three of his body guards, promising, at the same time, a reward to him who should make the wisest and truest answer.

15 *In the royal seat of judgment.*] Or, council.



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governor ; and it maketh to speak all things by talents :

22 And when they are in their cups, they forget their love both to friends and brethren, and a little after draw out swords :

23 But when they are from the wine, they remember not what they have done.

24 O ye men, is not wine the strongest, that enforceth to do thus ? And when he had so spoken, he hold his peace.

#### C H A P. IV.

1 *The second declareth the power of a king.*

14 *The third the force of women, 33 and of truth. 41 The third is judged to be wisest, 47 and obtaineth letters of the king to build Jerusalem. 58 He praiseth God, and sheweth his brethren what he had done.*

**T**HEN the second that had spoken of the strength of the king, began to say,

2 O ye men, do not men excel in strength, that bear rule over sea and land, and all things in them ?

3 But yet the king is more mighty ; for he is lord of all these things, and hath dominion over them, and whatsoever he commandeth them, they do.

4 If he bid them make war the one against the other, they do it : if he send them out against the enemies, they go, and break down mountains, walls, and towers.

5 They slay and are slain, and transgress not the king's commandment : if they get the victory, they bring all to the king, as well the spoil, as all things else.

6 Likewise for those that are no soldiers, and have not to do with wars, but use husbandry, when they have reaped again that which they had sown, they bring it to the

king, and compel one another to pay tribute unto the king.

7 And yet he is but one man : if he command to kill, they kill ; if he command to spare, they spare :

8 If he command to smite, they smite ; if he command to make desolate, they make desolate ; if he command to build, they build :

9 If he command to cut down, they cut down ; if he command to plant, they plant.

10 So all his people and his armies obey him : furthermore he lieth down, he eateth and drinketh, and taketh his rest :

11 And these keep [watch] round about him, neither may any one depart, and do his own business, neither disobey they him in any thing.

12 O ye men, how should not the king be mightiest, when in such sort he is obeyed ; and he held his tongue.

13 ¶ Then the third, who had spoken of women, and of the truth (this was Zorobabel) began to speak.

14 O ye men, it is not the great king, nor the multitude of men, neither is it wine that excelleth ; who is it then that ruleth them, or hath the lordship over them ? are they not women ?

15 Women have borne the king and all the people, that bear rule by sea, and land.

16 Even of them came they : and they nourished them up that planted the vineyards from whence the wine cometh.

17 These also make garments for men, these bring glory unto men ; and without women cannot men be.

18 Yea, and if men have gathered together gold and silver, or any other goodly thing, do they not love a woman which is comely,

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#### NOTES ON Chap. IV.

Ver. 2 *That bear rule.*] That have the command.

11 *Neither may any one.*] *Neither can any one, &c.*

14 *That excelleth.*] Hebrew, is of force.



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comely, in favour and beauty?

19 And letting all those things go, do they not gape, and even with open mouth fix their eyes fast on her; and have not all men more desire unto her, than unto silver, or gold, or any goodly thing whatsoever?

20 A man leaveth his own father that brought him up, and his own country, and cleaveth unto his wife.

21 He sticks not to spend his life with his wife, and remembereth neither father, nor mother, nor country.

22 By this also you must know, that women have dominion over you: do ye not labour and toil, and give and bring all to the woman?

23 Yea, a man taketh his sword, and goeth his way to rob, and to steal, to sail upon the sea, and upon rivers;

24 And looketh upon a lion, and goeth in the darkness; and when he hath stolen, spoiled, and robbed, he bringeth it to his love.

25 Wherefore a man loveth his wife better than father or mother.

26 Yea, many there be that have run out of their wits for women, and become servants for their sakes.

27 Many also have perished, have erred, and sinned for women.

28 And now do ye not believe me? is not the king great in his power? do not all regions fear to touch him?

29 Yet did I see him and Apame the king's concubine, the daughter of the ad-

mirable Bartacus, sitting at the right hand of the king,

30 And taking the crown from the king's head, and setting it upon her own head; she also struck the king with her left hand.

31 And yet for all this, the king gaped and gazed upon her with open mouth: if she laughed upon him, he laughed also: but if she took any displeasure at him, the king was fain to flatter, that she might be reconciled to him again.

32 O ye men, how can it be but women should be strong, seeing they do thus.

33 Then the king and the princes looked one upon another: so he began to speak of the truth.

34 O ye men, are not women strong? great is the earth, high is the heaven, swift is the sun in his course, for he compasseth the heavens round about, and fetcheth his course again to his own place in one day.

35 Is he not great that maketh these things? therefore great is the truth, and stronger than all things.

36 All the earth calleth upon the truth, and the heaven bleffeth it, all works shake and tremble at it, and with it is no unrighteous thing.

37 Wine is wicked, the king is wicked, women are wicked, all the children of men are wicked, and such are all their wicked works, and there is no truth in them; in their unrighteousness also they shall perish.

38 As for the truth it endureth, and is  
D always

26 *That have run out of their wits.*] Or, grown desperate.

29 *The daughter of the admirable Bartacus, &c.*] Rabfaces Themafius. See Joseph. Antiq. lib. xi. ch. 4.

34, 35 *O ye men, &c.*] Josephus tells us, that Zorobabel reasoned on truth in the following manner: "I have already shewn the great power of women; yet both they and a king are very weak, when opposed to truth; for the earth is large, and the heaven is high, and the sun swift in

his course, and all these are moved by the will of the Almighty, who is truth and righteousness, and against whom no iniquity can prevail. Many things which seem strong and powerful are not permanent, they are subject to decay; but truth is eternal, and flourisheth for ever. Truth bestows upon us things not liable to be corrupted by time, or such riches as fortune cannot take away, and by these we discern good from evil, and direct our way by their precepts."

36 *Calleth upon the truth.*] Praileth the truth.

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always strong, it liveth and conquereth for evermore.

39 With her there is no accepting of persons, or rewards, but she doeth the things that are just, and refraineth from all unjust and wicked things, and all men do well like of her works.

40 Neither in her judgment is any unrighteousness, and she is the strength, kingdom, power, and majesty of all ages. Blessed be the God of truth.

41 And with that he held his peace: and all the people then shouted, and said, Great is truth, and mighty above all things.

42 Then said the king unto him, Ask what thou wilt more than is appointed in the writing, and we will give it thee, because thou art found wisest, and thou shalt sit next me, and shalt be called my cousin.

43 Then said he unto the king, Remember thy vow which thou hast vowed, to build Jerusalem in the day when thou camest to thy kingdom.

44 And to send away all the vessels that were taken away out of Jerusalem, which Cyrus set apart, when he vowed to destroy Babylon, and to send them again thither.

45 Thou also hast vowed to build up the temple, which the Edomites burnt when Judea was made desolate by the Chaldees.

46 And now, O lord the king, this is that which I require, and which I desire of thee, and this is the princely liberality proceeding from thyself: I desire therefore that thou make good the vow, the performance whereof with thine own mouth thou hast vowed to the King of heaven.

47 Then Darius the king stood up, and kissed him, and wrote letters for him un-

to all the treasurers, and lieutenants, and captains, and governors, that they should safely convey on their way, both him, and all those that go up with him to build Jerusalem.

48 He wrote letters also unto the lieutenants that were in Celosyria, and Phenice, and unto them in Libanus, that they should bring cedar-wood from Libanus unto Jerusalem, and that they should build the city with him.

49 Moreover he wrote for all the Jews that went out of his realm up into Jewry, concerning their freedom, that no officer, no ruler, no lieutenant, nor treasurer, should forcibly enter into their doors;

50 And that all the country which they hold, should be free without tribute; and that the Edomites should give over the villages of the Jews which then they held:

51 Yea, that there should be yearly given twenty talents to the building of the temple, until the time that it were built;

52 And other ten talents yearly, to maintain the burnt-offerings upon the altar every day (as they had a commandment to offer seventeen)

53 And that all they that went from Babylon to build the city, should have free liberty, as well they as their posterity, and all the priests that went away.

54 He wrote also concerning the charges, and the priests vestments wherein they minister;

55 And likewise for the charges of the Levites, to be given them, until the day that the house were finished, and Jerusalem builded up.

56 And he commanded to give to all that kept the city, pensions and wages.

57 He sent away also all the vessels from Babylon

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45 Which the Edomites burnt, &c.] Psalm cxxvii. 7.  
Ezek. xxv. 12.

49 Nor treasurer.] Or steward.  
56 Pensions.] Or portions of land.



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Babylon that Cyrus had set apart, and all that Cyrus had given in commandment, the same charged he also to be done, and sent unto Jerusalem.

58 Now when this young man was gone forth, he lifted up his face to heaven, toward Jerusalem, and praised the King of heaven,

59 And said, From thee cometh victory, from thee cometh wisdom, and thine is the glory, and I am thy servant.

60 Blessed art thou who hast given me wisdom: for to thee I give thanks, O Lord of our fathers.

61 And so he took the letters, and went out, and came unto Babylon, and told it all his brethren.

62 And they praised the God of their fathers; because he had given them freedom and liberty.

63 To go up, and to build Jerusalem, and the temple which is called by his name: and they feasted with instruments of musick, and gladness seven days.

#### CHAP. V.

4 The names and number of the Jews that returned home. 50 The altar is set up in his place. 57 The foundation of the temple is laid. 73 The work is hindered for a time.

**A**FTER this were the principal men of the families chosen according to their tribes, to go up with their wives, and sons, and daughters, with their men-servants and maid-servants, and their cattle.

2 And Darius sent with them a thousand horsemen, till they had brought them back

to Jerusalem safely, and with musical [instruments] tabrets and flutes.

3 And all their brethren played, and he made them go up together with them.

4 And these are the names of the men which went up, according to their families, amongst their tribes, after their several heads:

5 The priests the sons of Phinees, the son of Aaron: Jesus the son of Josedec, the son of Saraias, and Joacim the son of Zorobabel, the son of Salathiel of the house of David, out of the kindred of Phares, of the tribe of Judah;

6 Who spake wise sentences before Darius the king of Persia, in the second year of his reign, in the month Nisan, which is the first month.

7 And these are they of Jewry that came up from the captivity, where they dwelt as strangers, whom Nabuchodonosor the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon.

8 And they returned unto Jerusalem, and to the other parts of Jewry, every man to his own city, who came with Zorobabel, with Jesus, Nehemias, and Zacharias, and Reesaias, Eneuius, Mardocheus, Beelsarus, Aspharatus, Reelius, Roimus, and Baana, their guides.

9 The number of them of the nation, and their governors, sons of Phoros, two thousand an hundred seventy and two: the sons of Saphat, four hundred seventy and two.

10 The sons of Ares, seven hundred sixty and six.

11 The

#### NOTES on Chap. V.

Ver. 1 *After this were the principal men of the families, &c.* This chapter contains the names and numbers of the Jews who returned from the Babylonish captivity; but the catalogue differs in many places from that given us in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

5 *Joacim the son of Zorobabel.* Rather Joacim and Zo-

robabel. This place is corrupt; for Joacim was the son of Josedech, Neh. xii. 10. and not Zorobabel, who was of the tribe of Judah.

6 *Who spake wise sentences.* i. e. Zorobabel.

9 *Phoros.* Paros. See Ezra ii. 3. Neh. vii. 8. Where for brevity, look for the true numbers of the particulars following; for here they vary much, and the names much more.

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11 The sons of Phaath Moab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve :

12 The sons of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four : the sons of Zathui, nine hundred forty and five : the sons of Corbe, seven hundred and five : the sons of Bani, six hundred forty and eight :

13 The sons of Bebai, six hundred twenty and three : the sons of Sadas, three thousand two hundred twenty and two :

14 The sons of Adonicam, six hundred sixty and seven : the sons of Bagoi, two thousand sixty and six : the sons of Adin, four hundred fifty and four :

15 The sons of Aterezias, ninety and two : the sons of Ceilan and Azetas, threescore and seven : the sons of Azuran, four hundred thirty and two :

16 The sons of Ananias, an hundred and one : the sons of Arom, thirty-two : and the sons of Bassa, three hundred twenty and three : the sons of Azephurith, an hundred and two :

17 The sons of Meterus, three thousand and five : the sons of Bethlomon, an hundred twenty and three :

18 They of Netophah, fifty and five : they of Anathoth, an hundred fifty and eight : they of Bethsamos, forty and two :

19 They of Kiriatharius, twenty and five : they of Caphira and Beroth, seven hundred forty and three : they of Pira, seven hundred :

20 They of Chadias, and Ammidioi, four hundred twenty and two : they of Ciram, and Gabdes, six hundred twenty and one :

21 They of Macalon, an hundred twenty and two : they of Betolius, fifty and two : the sons of Nephis, an hundred fifty and six :

22 The sons of Calamolalus, and Onus, seven hundred twenty and five : the sons of Jerechus, two hundred forty and five :

23 The sons of Annaas, three thousand three hundred and thirty :

24 The priests : the sons of Jeddu, the sons of Jesus, among the sons of Sanaab, nine hundred seventy and two : the sons of Meruth, a thousand fifty and two :

25 The sons of Phallaron, a thousand forty and seven : the sons of Carme, a thousand and seventeen.

26 The Levites : the sons of Jessue, and Cadmiel, and Banuas, and Sudias, seventy and four.

27 The holy fingers : the sons of Asaph, an hundred twenty and eight.

28 The porters : the sons of Salum, the sons of Jatai, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Dacobi, the sons of Teta, the sons of Sami, in all an hundred thirty and nine.

29 The servants of the temple : the sons of Esau, the sons of Asipha, the sons of Tabaoth, the sons of Ceras, the sons of Sud, the sons of Phaleas, the sons of Labana, the sons of Graba.

30 The sons of Acua, the sons of Uta, the sons of Cetab, the sons of Agaba, the sons of Subai, the sons of Anan, the sons of Cathua, the sons of Geddur,

31 The sons of Airus, the sons of Daifan, the sons of Noeba, the sons of Chafeba, the sons of Gazera, the sons of Azia, the sons of Phinees, the sons of Azara, the sons of Bastai, the sons of Asana, the sons of Meani, the sons of Naphisi, the sons of Acub, the sons of Acipha, the sons of Assur, the sons of Pharacim, the sons of Basaloth,

32 The sons of Meeda, the sons of Coutha, the sons of Charea, the sons of Charcus, the sons of Aferer, the sons of Thomoi, the sons of Nafith, the sons of Atipha.

33 The sons of the servants of Solomon : the sons of Azaphion, the sons of Pharira, the sons of Jeeli, the sons of Lozon, the sons of Isdael, the sons of Sapheth.

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34 The sons of Hagia, the sons of Phareth, the sons of Sabi, the sons of Sarothie, the sons of Mafias, the sons of Gar, the sons of Addus, the sons of Suba, the sons of Apherra, the sons of Barodis, the sons of Sabat, the sons of Allom.

35 All the ministers of the temple, and the sons of the servants of Solomon, were three hundred seventy and two.

36 These came up from Thermeleth and Thelerias, Charaathalar leading them, and Aalar.

37 Neither could they shew their families, nor their stock, how they were of Israel: the sons of Ladan, the son of Ban, the sons of Necodan, six hundred fifty and two.

38 And of the priests that usurped the office of the priesthood, and were not found, the sons of Obdia: the sons of Accoz, the sons of Addus, who married Augia one of the daughters of Barzelus, and was named after his name.

39 And when the description of the kindred of these men was sought in the register, and was not found, they were removed from executing the office of the priesthood.

40 For unto them said Nehemias and Atharias, that they should not be partakers of the holy things, till there arose up an high priest; clothed with doctrine and truth.

41 So of Israel from them of twelve years old and upward, they were all in number forty thousand, besides men-servants, and women-servants, two thousand three hundred and sixty.

42 Their men-servants and handmaids were seven thousand three hundred forty and seven: the singing-men and singing-

women, two hundred forty and five.

43 Four hundred thirty and five camels, seven thousand thirty and six horses, two hundred forty and five mules, five thousand five hundred twenty and five beasts used to the yoke.

44 And certain of the chief of their families, when they came to the temple of God that is in Jerusalem, vowed to set up the house again in his own place, according to their ability,

45 And to give into the holy treasury of the works, a thousand pounds of gold, five thousand of silver, an hundred priestly vestments.

46 And so dwelt the priests, and the Levites, and the people in Jerusalem, and in the country: the singers also and the porters, and all Israel in their villages.

47 But when the seventh month was at hand, and when the children of Israel were every man in his own place, they came all together with one consent into the open place of the first gate which is towards the east.

48 Then stood up Jesus the son of Josedec, and his brethren the priests, and Zorobabel the son of Salathiel, and his brethren, and made ready the altar of the God of Israel,

49 To offer burnt-sacrifices upon it, according as it is expressly commanded in the book of Moses, the man of God.

50 And there were gathered unto them out of the other nations of the land, and they erected the altar upon his own place, because all the nations of the land were at enmity with them, and oppressed them, and they offered sacrifices according to the time, and burnt-offerings to the Lord both morning and evening.

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51 Also

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34 *The sons of Hagia, &c.*] Mr. Kennicot has, at one view, laid the variations of this catalogue, as it differs from Ezra and Nehemiah, before the eye of the reader. See his Dissert. vol. ii. p. 508.

43 *Beasts.*] Asses.

47 *The first gate which is towards the east.*] Or, before the east-gate.

52 *The continual oblations.*] Or, daily sacrifice.



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51 Also they held the feast of tabernacles, as it is commanded in the law, and offered sacrifices daily, as was meet :

52 And after that, the continual oblations, and the sacrifice of the sabbaths, and of the new-moons, and of all holy feasts.

53 And all they that had made any vow to God, began to offer sacrifices to God from the first day of the seventh month, although the temple of the Lord was not yet built.

54 And they gave unto the masons and carpenters, money, meat and drink with cheerfulness.

55 Unto them of Sidon also and Tyre, they gave carrs, that they should bring cedar-trees from Libanus, which should be brought by flotes to the haven of Joppe, according as it was commanded them by Cyrus king of the Persians.

56 And in the second year and second month, after his coming to the temple of God at Jerusalem, began Zorobabel the son of Salathiel, and Jesus the son of Josedec, and their brethren, and the priests, and the Levites, and all they that were come unto Jerusalem out of the captivity :

57 And they laid the foundation of the house of God in the first day of the second month, in the second year after they were come to Jewry and Jerusalem.

58 And they appointed the Levites from twenty years old, over the works of the Lord. Then stood up Jesus and his sons,

and brethren, and Cadmiel his brother, and the sons of Madiabun, with the sons of Joda the son of Eliadun, with their sons and brethren, all Levites, with one accord setters forward of the business, labouring to advance the works in the house of God : So the workmen built the temple of the Lord.

59 And the priests stood arrayed in their vestments with musical instruments, and trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph had cymbals.

60 Singing songs of thanksgiving, and praising the Lord, according as David the king of Israel had ordained.

61 And they sung with loud voices songs to the praise of the Lord : because his mercy and glory is for ever in all Israel.

62 And all the people sounded trumpets, and shouted with a loud voice, singing songs of thanksgiving unto the Lord, for the rearing up of the house of the Lord.

63 Also of the priests and Levites, and of the chief of their families, the ancients who had seen the former house, came to the building of this with weeping, and great crying.

64 But many with trumpets and joy shouted with loud voice,

65 Insomuch that the trumpets might not be heard for the weeping of the people : yet the multitude sounded marvellously, so that it was heard afar off.

66 Wherefore

53 *That had made any vow, &c.*] Gr. Hallowed.

56 *In the second year, &c.*] Josephus gives the following account of this transaction : " In the seventh month after their departure from Babylon, Jesus the high-priest, and Zorobabel the prince, sent messengers round the adjacent countries, to assemble the whole nation at Jerusalem. They obeyed the summons with great alacrity, and erected an altar on the very spot where it had stood before the captivity, with a resolution to perform sacrifices thereon to God, according to the law of Moses. But while they were intent upon this good design, the neighbouring nations, who were their inveterate enemies, were incensed against them. They also celebrated the feast of tabernacles, as Moses had

appointed, and offered up their daily oblations and burnt-sacrifices, their sacrifice of sabbaths, and observed all their other festivals ; and they who performed their vows, made them at the sacrifice of the new-moon of the seventh month. Moreover, they set about building the temple, bestowing large sums of money upon masons and smiths, and furnishing the people, who brought materials, with provisions ; for the Sidonians very readily felled cedars, and brought them from mount Libanus, and conveyed them thence by sea to the haven of Joppa : for Cyrus had given this command, and Darius now ordered it to be put in execution."

58 *They appointed the Levites, &c.*] See Ezra iii. 9.

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66 Wherefore when the enemies of the tribe of Judah and Benjamin heard it, they came to know what that noise of trumpets should mean.

67 And they perceived that they that were of the captivity did build the temple unto the Lord God of Israel.

68 So they went to Zorobabel and Jesus, and to the chief of the families, and said unto them, We will build together with you.

69 For we likewise, as you, do obey your Lord, and do sacrifice unto him from the days of Azbarezeth the king of the Assyrians, who brought us hither.

70 Then Zorobabel and Jesus, and the chief of the families of Israel said unto them, It is not for us, and you to build together an house unto the Lord our God.

71 We ourselves alone will build unto the Lord of Israel, according as Cyrus the king of the Persians hath commanded us.

72 But the heathen of the land lying heavy upon the inhabitants of Judea, and holding them strait, hindering their building:

73 And by their secret plots, and popular persuasions and commotions, they hindered the finishing of the building, all the time that king Cyrus lived: so they were hindered from building for the space of two years, until the reign of Darius.

#### C H A P. VI.

1 *The prophets stir up the people to build the temple.* 8 *Darius is solicited to hinder it.*

27 *But he doth further it by all means,*

32 *and threateneth those that shall hinder it.*

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NOW in the second year of the reign of Darius, Aggeus, and Zacharias the son of Ado the prophets prophesied unto the Jews, in Jewry and Jerusalem, in the name of the Lord God of Israel which was upon them.

2 Then stood up Zorababel the son of Salathiel, and Jesus the son of Josedec, and began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, the prophets of the Lord being with them, and helping them.

3 At the same time came unto them, Sisinnus the governor of Syria and Phenice, with Sathrabuzanes, and his companions, and said unto them,

4 By whose appointment do you build this house and this roof, and perform all the other things? and who are the workmen that perform these things?

5 Nevertheless the elders of the Jews obtained favour: because the Lord had visited the captivity.

6 And they were not hindered from building, until such time as signification was given unto Darius concerning them, and an answer received.

7 The copy of the letters which Sisinnus governor of Syria and Phenice, and Sathrabuzanes, with their companions, rulers in Syria and Phenice, wrote and sent unto Darius; To king Darius, greeting.

8 Let all things be known unto our lord the king, that being come into the country of Judea, and entered into the city of Jerusalem, we found in the city of Jerusalem the ancients of the Jews that were of the captivity.

9 Building an house unto the Lord, great and

[69 Azbarezeth.] Or, Esarhaddon. Ezra iv. 2.

[73 Until the reign of Darius.] Until the second year of Darius. Ezra iv. 5, 6, 7.

#### NOTES on Chap. VI.

Ver. 1 Now in the second year, &c.] See Ezra v. 1, &c.

[Aido.] Or, Iddo.

[Which was upon them.] Or, which was called on them.

[3 Sisinnus.] Or Tatnai.

[Sathrabuzanes.] Or, Shetharboznai.



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and new, of hewn and costly stones, and the timber already laid upon the walls.

10 And those works are done with great speed; and the work goeth on prosperously in their hands, and with all glory and diligence is it made.

11 Then asked we these elders, saying, By whose commandment build ye this house, and lay the foundations of these works?

12 Therefore to the intent that we might give knowledge unto thee by writing, we demanded of them who were the chief doers, and we required of them the names in writing of their principal men.

13 So they gave us this answer, We are the servants of the Lord which made heaven and earth.

14 And as for this house, it was builded many years ago by a king of Isreal, great and strong, and was finished.

15 But when our fathers provoked God unto wrath, and sinned against the Lord of Israel which is in heaven, he gave them over into the power of Nabuchodonasor king of Babylon, of the Chaldees:

16 Who pulled down the house and burnt it, and carried away the people captives unto Babylon.

17 But in the first year that king Cyrus reigned over the country of Babylon, Cyrus the king wrote to build up this house.

18 And the holy vessels of gold and of silver, that Nabuchodonosor had carried away out of the house at Jerusalem, and had set them in his own temple, those Cyrus the king brought forth again out of the temple at Babylon, and they were delivered to Zorobabel and to Sanabassar the ruler,

19 With commandment that he should carry away the same vessels, and put them

in the temple at Jerusalem, and that the temple of the Lord should be built in his place.

20 Then the same Sanabassar being come hither, laid the foundations of the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, and from that time to this, being still a building, it is not yet fully ended.

21 Now therefore, if it seem good unto the king, let search be made among the records of king Cyrus.

22 And if it be found, that the building of the house of the Lord at Jerusalem hath been done with the consent of king Cyrus, and if our Lord the king be so minded, let him signify unto us thereof.

23 Then commanded king Darius to seek among the records at Babylon: and so at Ecbatana the palace, which is in the country of Media, there was found a roll wherein these things were recorded.

24 In the first year of the reign of Cyrus, king Cyrus commanded that the house of the Lord at Jerusalem should be built again, where they do sacrifice with continual fire.

25 Whose height should be sixty cubits, and the breadth sixty cubits, with three rows of hewn stones, and one row of new wood of that country, and the expences thereof to be given out of the house of king Cyrus.

26 And that the holy vessels of the house of the Lord both of gold and silver, that Nabuchodonosor took out of the house at Jerusalem, and brought to Babylon, should be restored to the house at Jerusalem, and be set in the place where they were before.

27 And also he commanded that Sisines the governor of Syria and Phenice, and Sathrabuzanes, and their companions, and those which were appointed rulers in Syria, and

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18 They were delivered to Zorobabel, and to, &c.] Or, Zorobabel, which is also Sanabassar the ruler; so that Zo-

robabel seems to be added to the text. Ezra i. 8.

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and Phenice, should be careful not to meddle with the place, but suffer Zorobabel, the servant of the Lord, and governor of Judea, and the elders of the Jews, to build the house of the Lord in that place.

28 I have commanded also to have it built up whole again, and that they look diligently to help those that be of the captivity of the Jews, till the house of the Lord be finished.

29 And out of the tribute of Celosyria, and Phenice, a portion carefully to be given these men, for the sacrifices of the Lord, *that is*, to Zorobabel the governor, for bullocks, and rams, and lambs:

30 And also corn, salt, wine, and oil, and that continually every year without further question, according as the priests that be in Jerusalem shall signify to be daily spent:

31 That offerings may be made to the most high God for the king, and for his children, and that they may pray for their lives.

32 And he commanded that whosoever should transgress, yea, or make light of any thing afore spoken or written, out of his own house should a tree be taken, and he thereon hanged, and all his goods seized for the king.

33 The Lord therefore whose name is there called upon, utterly destroy every king and nation, that stretcheth out his hand to hinder or endamage that house of the Lord in Jerusalem.

34 I Darius the king have ordained, that according unto these things it be done with diligence.

## C H A P. VII.

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1 *Sisinnus and others help forward the building: 5 The temple is finished, and dedicated.*

10 *The passover is kept.*

**T**HEN Sisinnus the governor of Celosyria and Phenice, and Sathrabuzanes, with their companions, following the commandments of king Darius,

2 Did very carefully oversee the holy works, assisting the ancients of the Jews, and governors of the temple.

3 And so the holy works prospered, when Aggeus, and Zacharias, the prophets prophesied.

4 And they finished these things, by the commandment of the Lord God of Israel, and with the consent of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia.

5 And thus was the holy house finished in the three and twentieth day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of Darius king of the Persians.

6 And the children of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and other that were of the captivity, that were added unto them, did according to the things written in the book of Moses.

7 And to the dedication of the temple of the Lord, they offered an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs;

8 And twelve goats for the sin of all Israel, according to the number of the chief of the tribes of Israel.

9 The priests also and the Levites stood arrayed in their vestments, according to their kindreds, in the services of the Lord God of Israel, according to the book of Moses:

F and

31 *Offerings.*] Or, Drink-offerings.

## NOTES ON CHAP. VII.

Ver. 4 *They finished these, &c.*] The enemies of the Jews, finding that Darius would be obeyed, assisted the

Jews in building the temple, which was accordingly finished, and dedicated with great solemnity.

*The consent.*] Or the decree.

5 *In the three and twentieth day, &c.*] Heb. The third day.



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and the porters at every gate.

10 And the children of Israel that were of the captivity, held the passover the fourteenth day of the first month, after that the priests and the Levites were sanctified.

11 They that were of the captivity, were not all sanctified together; but the Levites were all sanctified together.

12 And so they offered the passover for all them of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.

13 And the children of Israel that came out of the captivity did eat, even all they that had separated themselves from the abominations of the people of the land, and fought the Lord.

14 And they kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days, making merry before the Lord:

15 For that he had turned the counsel of the king of Assyria towards them to strengthen their hands in the works of the Lord God of Israel.

#### CHAP. VIII.

1 *Esdra* bringeth the king's commission to build: 8 The copy of it: 28 He declareth the names and number of those that came with him, 61 and his journey: 71 He lamenteth the sins of his people, 96 and sweareth the priests to put away their strange wives.

**A**ND after these things, when Artaxerxes the king of the Persians reigned, came Esdras the son of Saraias, the son of Ezerias, the son Helchiah, the son of Salum,

2 The son of Sadduc, the son of Achitob, the son of Amarias, the son of Ezias, the son of Memeroth, the son of Zariaias,

the son of Savias, the son of Boccas, the son of Abisum, the son of Phinees, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest.

3 This Esdras went up from Babylon, as a scribe, being very ready in the law of Moses, that was given by the God of Israel.

4 And the king did him honour: for he found grace in his sight in all his requests.

5 There went up with him also certain of the children of Israel, of the priests, of the Levites, of the holy singers, porters, and ministers of the temple, unto Jerusalem.

6 In the seventh year of the reign of Artaxerxes, in the fifth month (this was the king's seventh year) for they went from Babylon in the first day of the first month, and came to Jerusalem, according to the prosperous journey which the Lord gave them.

7 For Esdras had very great skill, so that he omitted nothing of the law and commandments of the Lord, but taught all Israel the ordinances and judgments.

8 Now the copy of the commission which was written from Artaxerxes the king, and came to Esdras the priest and reader of the law of the Lord, is this that followeth;

9 King Artaxerxes unto Esdras the priest and reader of the law of the Lord, sendeth greeting.

10 Having determined to deal graciously, I have given order, that such of the nation of the Jews, and of the priests and Levites, being within our realm, as are willing and desirous, should go with thee unto Jerusalem.

11 As many therefore as have a mind there-

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9 According to their kindreds, &c.] Rather according to their divisions. See Ezra vi. 18.

10 The children of Israel that were of the captivity, &c.] Or, with those that, &c.

#### NOTES on Chap. VIII.

Ver. 2 Ezias, Memeroth, Zariaias.] The margin reads, Ozias, Meraioth, Uzzi; and observes, that some copies want these three names.

5 Ministers.] Or, Nethinims.

6 In the seventh year, &c.] See Ezra vii. 7, 8, 9.

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457. thereunto, let them depart with thee, as it hath seemed good both to me, and my seven friends the counsellors ;

12 That they may look unto the affairs of Judea and Jerusalem, agreeably to that which is in the law of the Lord ;

13 And carry the gifts unto the Lord of Israel to Jerusalem, which I and my friends have vowed, and all the gold and silver that in the country of Babylon can be found, to the Lord in Jerusalem.

14 With that also which is given of the people, for the temple of the Lord their God at Jerusalem : and that silver and gold may be collected for bullocks, rams, and lambs, and things thereunto appertaining.

15 To the end that they may offer sacrifices unto the Lord, upon the altar of the Lord their God, which is in Jerusalem.

16 And whatsoever thou and thy brethren will do with the silver and gold, that do, according to the will of thy God.

17 And the holy vessels of the Lord which are given thee for the use of the temple of thy God which is in Jerusalem, thou shalt set before thy God in Jerusalem.

18 And whatsoever things else thou shalt remember for the use of the temple of thy God, thou shalt give it out of the king's treasury.

19 And I king Artaxerxes have also commanded the keepers of the treasures in Syria and Phenice, that whatsoever Esdras the priest and the reader of the law of the most high God shall send for, they should give it him with speed,

20 To the sum of an hundred talents of silver, likewise also of wheat even to an hundred cors, and an hundred pieces of wine, and other things in abundance.

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457. 21 Let all things be performed after the law of God diligently unto the most high God, that wrath come not upon the kingdom of the king and his sons.

22 I command you also, that ye require no tax, nor any other imposition of any of the priests or Levites, or holy singers, or porters, or ministers of the temple, or of any that have doings in this temple, and that no man have authority to impose any thing upon them.

23 And thou, Esdras, according to the wisdom of God, ordain judges and justices, that they may judge in all Syria and Phenice all those that know the law of thy God : and those that know it not, thou shalt teach.

24 And whosoever shall transgress the law of thy God, and of the king, shall be punished diligently, whether it be by death, or other punishment, by penalty of money, or by imprisonment.

25 ¶ Then said Esdras the scribe, Blessed be the only Lord God of my fathers, who hath put these things into the heart of the king, to glorify his house that is in Jerusalem,

26 And hath honoured me in the sight of the king and his counsellors, and all his friends, and nobles.

27 Therefore was I encouraged by the help of the Lord my God, and gathered together men of Israel to go up with me.

28 And these are the chief according to their families and several dignities, that went up with me from Babylon in the reign of king Artaxerxes.

29 Of the sons of Phinees, Gerson : of the sons of Ithamar, Gamael : of the sons of David, Lettus the son of Sechenias :

30 Of

16 *With the silver and gold.* Or, with the rest of, &c.

20 *Even to an hundred cors, &c.* Cors is a Chaldaic word, and signifies measures. See Ezra vii. 22.

23 *All those that know, &c.* Heb. Of those that know.

28 *These are the chief according to their families, &c.* The following catalogue is something different from that given in Ezra, ch. viii.



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30 Of the sons of Pharez, Zacharias; and with him were counted an hundred and fifty men:

31 Of the sons of Pahath Moab, Eliaonias, the son of Zarias, and with him two hundred men:

32 Of the sons of Zathoe, Sechenias the son of Jezelus, and with him three hundred men: of the sons of Adin, Obeth the son of Jonathan, and with him two hundred and fifty men:

33 Of the sons of Elam, Josias son of Getholias, and with him seventy men:

34 Of the sons of Saphatias, Zaratias son of Michael, and with him threescore and ten men:

35 Of the sons of Joab, Abadiah son of Jezelus, and with him two hundred and twelve men:

36 Of the sons of Banid, Asallimoth son of Josaphias, and with him an hundred and threescore men:

37 Of the sons of Babi, Zacharias son of Bebai, and with him twenty and eight men:

38 Of the sons of Asath, Johannes son of Acatan, and with him an hundred and ten men:

39 Of the sons of Adoniam the last, and these are the names of them, Eliphalet, Juel, and Samaias, and with them seventy men:

40 Of the sons of Bago, Uthi the son of Istalcurus, and with him seventy men.

41 And these I gathered together to the river called Theras, where we pitched our tents three days; and then I surveyed them.

42 But when I found there none of the priests and Levites,

43 Then sent I unto Eleazar, and Iduel, and Masman,

44 And Alnathan, and Marnaias, and Joribas, and Nathan, Eunatan, Zacharias, and Mosollamon, principal men and learned.

45 And I bade them that they should go unto Saddeus the captain, who was in the place of the treasury:

46 And commanded them that they should speak unto Daddeus, and to his brethren, and to the treasurers in that place, to send us such men as might execute the priests office in the house of the Lord.

47 And by the mighty hand of our Lord they brought unto us skilful men of the sons of Moli the son of Levi, the son of Israel, Asebia and his sons, and his brethren, who were eighteen.

48 And Asebia, and Annuus, and Osaia his brother of the sons of Channuneus, and their sons were twenty men.

49 And of the servants of the temple whom David had ordained, and the principal men, for the service of the Levites (to wit) the servants of the temple, two hundred and twenty, the catalogue of whose names were shewed.

50 And there I vowed a fast unto the young men before our Lord, to desire of him a prosperous journey both for us and them that were with us, for our children and for the cattle.

51 For I was ashamed to ask the king, footmen, and horsemen, and conduct for safeguard against our adversaries.

52 For we had said unto the king, that the power the of Lord our God should be with them that seek him, to support them in all ways.

53 And

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41 *To the river called Theras, &c.*] Or, the river called Ahava. See Ezra viii. 15.

*Then I surveyed them, &c.*] Or rather numbered the people, and the priests, but found none of the sons of Levi.

44 *Joribas.*] The margin says, these men's names, with

their generations, are rightly distinguished. Ezra viii. 16.

48 *And Asebia, and Annuus, &c.*] Or, also Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiiah, of the sons of Merari, with his brethren.

50 *I vowed.*] Or proclaimed.

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53 And again we besought our Lord, as touching these things, and found him favourable unto us.

54 Then I separated twelve of the chief of the priests, Ezebias, and Assanias, and ten men of their brethren with them.

55 And I weighed them the gold, and the silver, and the holy vessels of the house of our Lord, which the king and his council, and the princes, and all Israel had given.

56 And when I had weighed it, I delivered unto them six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels of an hundred talents, and an hundred talents of gold.

57 And twenty golden vessels, and twelve vessels of brass, even of fine brass, glittering like gold.

58 And I said unto them, Both you are holy unto the Lord, and the vessels are holy, and the gold and the silver is a vow unto the Lord, the Lord of our fathers.

59 Watch ye, and keep them till ye deliver them to the chief of the priests and Levites, and to the principal men of the families of Israel in Jerusalem, into the chambers of the house of our God.

60 So the priests and the Levites who had received the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, brought them unto Jerusalem, into the temple of the Lord.

61 And from the river Theras we departed the twelfth day of the first month, and came to Jerusalem by the mighty hand of our Lord, which was with us: and from the beginning of our journey, the Lord delivered us from every enemy, and so we came to Jerusalem.

62 And when we had been there three days, the gold and silver that was weighed,

was delivered into the house of our Lord on the fourth day unto Marmoth the priest the son of Iri.

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63 And with him was Eleazar the son of Phinees, and with them were Josabad the son of Jesu, and Moeth the son of Sabban, Levites: all was delivered them by number and weight.

64 And all the weight of them was written up the same hour.

65 Moreover, they that were come out of the captivity offered sacrifice unto the Lord God of Israel, even twelve bullocks for all Israel, fourscore and sixteen rams,

66 Threescore and twelve lambs, goats for a peace-offering, twelve, all of them a sacrifice to the Lord.

67 And they delivered the king's commandments unto the king's stewards, and to the governors of Celosyria and Phenice, and they honoured the people, and the temple of God.

68 Now when these things were done, the rulers came unto me, and said,

69 The nation of Israel, the princes, the priests, and Levites, have not put away from them the strange people of the land, nor the pollutions of the Gentiles, *to wit*, of the Canaanites, Hittites, Pherefites, Jebusites, and the Moabites, Egyptians, and Edomites.

70 For both they and their sons have married with their daughters, and the holy seed is mixed with the strange people of the land; and from the beginning of this matter, the rulers, and the great men have been partakers of this iniquity.

71 And as soon as I had heard these things, I rent my clothes, and the holy garment, and pulled off the hair from off my head

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57 *Twelve vessels.*] Heb. Two vessels.

62 *Unto Marmoth the priest, the son of Iri.*] Or, unto Merimoth, the son of Uriah the priest.

65 *Twelve bullocks—fourscore and sixteen rams.*] Heb. Se-

venty-seven lambs, twelve he-goats, for a sin-offering. Ezra viii. 35.

70 *For both they and their sons, &c.*] See Ezra ix. 2.



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head and beard, and sat me down sad, and very heavy.

72 So all they that were then moved at the word of the Lord God of Israel, assembled unto me, whilst I mourned for the iniquity : but I sat still full of heaviness, until the evening sacrifice.

73 Then rising up from the fast with my clothes and the holy garment rent, and bowing my knees, and stretching forth my hands unto the Lord,

74 I said, O Lord, I am confounded, and ashamed before thy face ;

75 For our sins are multiplied above our heads, and our ignorances have reached up unto heaven.

76 For ever since the time of our fathers we have been and are in great sin, even unto this day.

77 And for our sins and our fathers, we with our brethren, and our kings, and our priests, were given up unto the kings of the earth, to the sword, and to captivity, and for a prey with shame unto this day.

78 And now in some measure hath mercy been shewed unto us from thee, O Lord, that there should be left us a root, and a name in the place of thy sanctuary ;

79 And to discover unto us a light in the house of the Lord our God, and to give us food in the time of our servitude.

80 Yea, when we were in bondage, we were not forsaken of our Lord ; but he made us gracious before the kings of Persia, so that they gave us food ;

81 Yea, and honoured the temple of our Lord, and raised up the desolate Sion, that they have given us a sure abiding in Jewry and Jerusalem.

82 And now, O Lord, what shall we say, having these things ? for we have transgressed thy commandments which thou gav-

est by the hand of thy servants the prophets, saying,

83 That the land which ye enter into to possess as an heritage, is a land polluted with the pollutions of the strangers of the land, and they have filled it with their uncleanness.

84 Therefore now shall ye not join your daughters unto their sons, neither shall ye take their daughters unto your sons.

85 Moreover, you shall never seek to have peace with them, that ye may be strong, and eat the good things of the land, and that ye may leave the inheritance of the land unto your children for evermore.

86 And all that is befallen, is done unto us for our wicked works, and great sins : for thou, O Lord, didst make our sins light,

87 And didst give unto us such a root : but we have turned back again to transgress thy law, and to mingle ourselves with the uncleanness of the nations of the land.

88 Mightest not thou be angry with us to destroy us, till thou hast left us neither root, seed, nor name ?

89 O Lord of Israel, thou art true : for we are left a root this day.

90 Behold, now are we before thee in our iniquities, for we cannot stand any longer by reason of these things before thee.

91 And as Esdras in his prayer made his confession, weeping, and lying flat upon the ground before the temple, there gathered unto him from Jerusalem a very great multitude of men, and women, and children, for there was great weeping among the multitude.

92 Then Jechonias the son of Jeelus, one of the sons of Israel, called out, and said, O Esdras, we have sinned against the Lord God, we have married strange wo-

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88 *Mightest not thou be angry, &c.*] Or, be not angry, &c.

92 *Aloft.*] Or exalted. Deut. xxviii. 13. Baruch ii. 5.

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men of the nations of the land, and now is all Israel aloft.

93 Let us make an oath to the Lord, that we will put away all our wives, which we have taken of the heathen, with their children;

94 Like as thou hast decreed, and as many as do obey the law of the Lord.

95 Arise, and put in execution: for to thee doth this matter appertain, and we will be with thee: do valiantly.

96 So Esdras arose, and took an oath of the chief of the priests and Levites of all Israel, to do after these things; and so they sware.

### CHAP. IX.

1 *Esdras assembleth all the people.* 10 *They promise to put away the strange wives.* 20 *The names and number of them that did so.* 40 *The law of Moses is read and declared before all the people.* 49 *They weep, and are put in mind of the feast-day.*

**T**HEN Esdras rising from the court of the temple, went to the chamber of Joanan the son of Eliafib,

2 And remained there, and did eat no meat nor drink water, mourning for the great iniquities of the multitude.

3 And there was a proclamation in all Jewry and Jerusalem, to all them that were of the captivity, that they should be gathered together at Jerusalem.

4 And that whosoever met not there within two or three days, according as the elders that bare rule appointed, their cattle should be seized to the use of the temple, and himself cast out from them that were of the captivity.

5 And in three days were all they of the

tribe of Juda and Benjamin gathered together at Jerusalem the twentieth day of the ninth month.

6 And all the multitude sat trembling in the broad court of the temple, because of the present foul weather.

7 So Esdras rose up and said unto them, Ye have transgressed the law in marrying strange wives, thereby to increase the sins of Israel.

8 And now by confession give glory unto the Lord God of our fathers.

9 And do his will, and separate yourselves from the heathen of the land, and from the strange women.

10 Then cried the whole multitude and said with a loud voice, Like as thou hast spoken, so will we do.

11 But forasmuch as the people are many, and it is foul weather, so that we cannot stand without, and this is not a work of a day or two, seeing our sin in these things is spread far:

12 Therefore let the rulers of the multitude stay, and let all them of our habitations that have strange wives, come at the time appointed.

13 And with them the rulers and judges of every place, till we turn away the wrath of the Lord from us for this matter.

14 Then Jonathan the son of Azael, and Ezechias the son of Theocanus, accordingly took this matter upon them; and Mosollam, and Levis, and Sabbatheus helped them.

15 And they that were of the captivity, did according to all these things.

16 And Esdras the priest chose unto him the principal men of their families,  
all

96 *Of all Israel.]* Heb. And all Israel. Ezra x. v.

### NOTES on Chap. IX.

Ver. 1 *Then Esdras rising from the court, &c.]* In this and the following verses, we have an account of a proclamation published, for all the Jews of the captivity to assemble

in two or three days at Jerusalem, on pain of their cattle being seized for the service of the temple, and themselves cast out from among their brethren. See Ezra x.

4 *Cast out.]* Margin, Utterly destroyed.

12 *Let the rulers of the multitude stay.]* Margin, Let them stand.

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all by name : and in the first day of the tenth moeth, they sat together to examine the matter.

17 So their cause that held strange wives was brought to an end, in the first day of the first month.

18 And of the priests that were come together, and had strange wives, there were found :

19 Of the sons of Jesus the son of Josedec, and his brethren ; Mattheas, and Eleazar, and Joribus, and Joadanus.

20 And they gave their hands to put away their wives, and to offer rams, to make reconciliation for their errors.

21 And of the sons of Emmer ; Ananias, and Zabdeus, and Eanes, and Sameius, and Hiereel, and Azarias.

22 And of the sons of Phaifur ; Elionas, Maffias, Ismael, and Nathanael, and Ocidelus, and Talfas.

23 And of the Levites ; Josabad, and Semis, and Colius, who was called Calitas, and Patheus, and Judas, and Jonas.

24 Of the holy fingers ; Eleasurus, Bacchurus.

25 Of the porters ; Sallumus, and Tolbanes.

26 Of them of Israel, of the sons of Phoros ; Hiermas, and Eddias, and Melchias, and Maelus, and Eleazar, and Afibias, and Baanias.

27 Of the sons of Ela ; Matthanias, Zacharias, and Hierielus, and Hieremoth, and Aedias.

28 And of the sons of Zamoth ; Eliadas, Elifimus, Othonias, Jarimoth, and Sabatus, and Sardeus.

29 Of the sons of Bebai ; Johannes, and Ananias, and Josabad, and Amatheis.

30 Of the sons of Mani ; Olamus, Mamuchus, Jedeus, Jafubus, Jafael, and Hieremoth.

31 And of the sons of Addi, Naathus, and Moofias, Lacunus, and Naidus, and Mathanias, and Sesthel, Balnuus, and Manasseas.

32 And of the sons of Annas ; Elionas, and Aseas, and Melchias, and Sabbeus, and Simon Chofameus.

33 And of the sons of Afom ; Altaneus, and Matthias, and Bannaia, Eliphalet, and Manasses, and Semei.

34 And of the sons of Maani, Jeremias, Momdis, Omaerus, Juel, Mabdai, and Pelias, and Anos, Carabasion, and Euasibus, and Mamnitanaimus, Eliasif, Bannus, Eli-ali, Samis, Selemias, Nathanas : and of the sons of Ozora, Sefis, Efril, Azaelus, Samatus, Zambis, Josiphus.

35 And of the sons of Ethma, Mazitias, Zabadaias, Edes, Jucl, Banaias.

36 All these had taken strange wives, and they put them away with their children.

37 And the priests and Levites, and they that were of Israel, dwelt in Jerusalem, and in the country, in the first day of the seventh month : so the children of Israel were in their habitations.

38 And the whole multitude came together with one accord, into the broad place of the holy porch toward the east.

39 And they spake unto Esdras the priest and reader, that he would bring the law of Moses, that was given of the Lord God of Israel.

40 So

20 To offer rams.] Heb. A ram.

31 Of the sons of Addi, &c.] For the names in this verse and ver. 32, 34, 35, see Ezra x. 30, 31, 34, &c.

37 The priests and the Levites, &c.] The similar passage from this verse to the end of the chapter, is in Neh. viii. 1 to 13.

In their habitations.] Or, villages.

38 The whole multitude came together, &c.] Josephus has given us the following account of this transaction—"On the seventh month, when the feast of tabernacles was celebrated, and all the people were met together in a place near the gate facing the east, which opens into the capacious area of the temple, they desired Esdras to read to them the law of Moses. Accordingly he placed himself

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40 So Esdras the chief priest brought the law unto the whole multitude from man to woman, and to all the priests, to hear the law in the first day of the seventh month.

41 And he read in the broad court before the holy porch from morning unto mid-day, before both men and women; and all the multitude gave heed unto the law.

42 And Esdras the priest, and reader of the law, stood up upon a pulpit of wood which was made *for that purpose*.

43 And there stood up by him, Mattathias, Sammus, Ananias, Azarias, Urias, Ezechias, Balasamus upon the right hand.

44 And upon his left hand stood Phaldaius, Misael, Melchias, Lothasubus, and Nabarias.

45 Then took Esdras the book of the law before the multitude: for he sat honourably in the first place in the sight of them all.

46 And when he opened the law, they stood all straight up. So Esdras blessed the Lord God most High, the God of hosts Almighty.

47 And all the people answered, Amen; and lifting up their hands they fell to the ground, and worshipped the Lord.

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48 Also Jesus, Anus, Sarabias, Adinus, Jacobus, Sabatteas, Auteas, Maiancas, and Calitas, Azarias, and Joasabbus, and Ananias, Biatas, the Levites taught the law of the Lord, making them withal to understand it.

49 Then spake Attharates unto Esdras the chief priest and reader, and to the Levites that taught the multitude, even to all, saying,

50 This day is holy unto the Lord; (for they all wept when they heard the law)

51 Go then and eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send part to them that have nothing.

52 For this day is holy unto the Lord, and be not sorrowful; for the Lord will bring you to honour.

53 So the Levites published all things to the people, saying, This day is holy to the Lord: be not sorrowful.

54 Then went they their way, every one to eat and drink, and make merry, and to give part to them that had nothing, and to make great cheer.

55 Because they understood the words wherein they were instructed, and for the which they had been assembled.

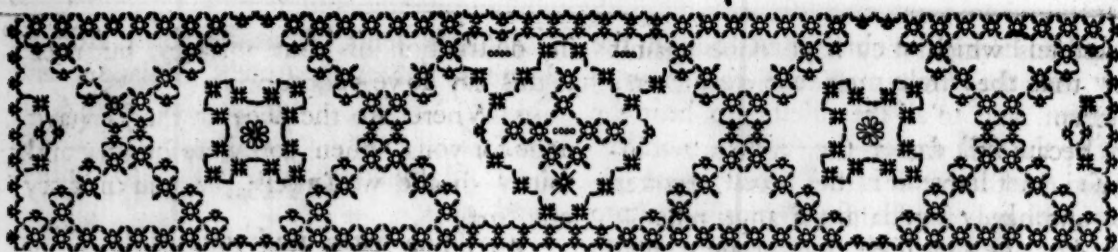
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in the midst of the audience, and continued reading unto them from morning until noon. And when they had heard the law, they not only learned to follow justice for the present and the future, but also lamented what was past; and with eyes drowned in tears, heavily mourned at this consideration, that if they had paid a due regard to the laws, they should not have suffered the misfortune they had undergone. When Esdras saw their mournful condition, he commanded them to repair to their respective habitations, and leave off weeping, for the day was a festival, and therefore a very improper time to shew any sign of sorrow. He exhorted them to rejoice, as being more agreeable to

the time, adding, that he hoped their sorrow and repentance for their past offences would be a security against any future transgressions. The request of Esdras had the desired effect. The people began the feast, which continued eight days, in their tents, and then returned to the place of their dwelling, giving thanks and praises to God, and acknowledging their great obligations to Esdras who had piously taught them every part of their duty."

49 *Then spake Attharates, &c.*] Then Nehemiah, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites that instructed the people, said unto all the people, Neh. viii. 9.





# THE SECOND BOOK OF ESDRAS.

## The ARGUMENT.

*This book, say the authors of the Universal History, is acknowledged by neither Jews nor Christians. It is falsely pretended to be written by Ezra himself, tho' filled partly with rabbinical fables, such as the account of the six days creation, particularly of Behemoth, and Leviathan, two monstrous creatures designed for a feast to the elect after the resurrection; and partly with some gospel notions, corrupted, and fitted to the author's taste. Of this sort are the nearness of the day of judgment, the appearance of the Son of God to him, and many more not worth repeating. This book is not now extant in Greek, nor ever was in Hebrew, but is printed in Latin in many editions of the Bible.*

### CHAP. I.

*1 Esdras is commanded to reprove the people, 24 God threateneth to cast them off, 35 and to give their houses to a people of more grace than they.*

**T**HE second book of the prophet Esdras, the son of Saraïas, the son of Azarias, the son of Helchias, the son of Sadamias, the son of Sadoc, the son of Achitob,

*2 The son of Achias, the son of Phinees,*

*the son of Heli, the son of Amarias, the son of Aziei, the son of Marimoth, the son of Arna, the son of Ozias, the son of Borith, the son of Abisei, the son of Phinees, the son of Eleazar,*

*3 The son of Aaron, of the tribe of Levi: which was captive in the land of the Medes, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of the Persians.*

*4 And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,*

*5 Go thy way, and shew my people their sinful deeds, and their children their wickedness.*

wickedness which they have done against me, that they may tell their children's children.

6 Because the sins of their fathers are increased in them: for they have forgotten me, and have offered unto strange gods.

7 Am not I even he that brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage? but they have provoked me unto wrath, and despised my counsels.

8 Pull thou off then the hair of thy head, and cast all evil upon them, for they have not been obedient unto my law, but it is a rebellious people.

9 How long shall I forbear them unto whom I have done so much good?

10 Many kings have I destroyed for their sakes; Pharaoh with his servants, and all his power, have I smitten down.

11 All the nations have I destroyed before them, and in the east I have scattered the people of two provinces, even of Tyrus and Sidon, and have slain all their enemies.

12 Speak thou therefore unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord,

13 I led you through the sea, and in the beginning gave you a large and safe passage; I gave you Moses for a leader, and Aaron for a priest.

14 I gave you light in a pillar of fire, and great wonders have I done among you, yet have you forgotten me, saith the Lord.

15 Thus saith the Almighty Lord, The quails were as a token for you, I gave you tents for your safeguard: nevertheless, you murmured there,

16 And triumphed not in my name for

the destruction of your enemies, but ever to this day do ye yet murmur.

17 Where are the benefits that I have done for you? when you were hungry and thirsty in the wilderness, did you not cry unto me,

18 Saying, Why hast thou brought us into this wilderness to kill us? it had been better for us to have served the Egyptians, than to die in this wilderness.

19 Then had I pity upon your mournings, and gave you manna to eat; so ye did eat angels bread.

20 When ye were thirsty, did I not cleave the rock, and waters flowed out to your fill? for the heat I covered you with the leaves of the trees.

21 I divided among you a fruitful land, I cast out the Canaanites, the Pherezites, and the Philistines before you: what shall I yet do more for you? saith the Lord.

22 Thus saith the Almighty Lord, When you were in the wilderness, in the river of the Amorites, being athirst, and blaspheming my name,

23 I gave you not fire for your blasphemies, but cast a tree in the water, and made the river sweet.

24 What shall I do unto thee, O Jacob? thou Juda wouldest not obey me: I will turn me to other nations, and unto those will I give my name, that they may keep my statutes.

25 Seeing ye have forsaken me, I will forsake you also; when ye desire me to be gracious unto you, I shall have no mercy upon you.

26 When-

### NOTES on Chap. I.

Ver. 5 *Go thy way, and show my people, &c.*] Esdras is ordered in this chapter, to set before the people their numberless sins, iniquities, and idolatries, which far exceeded those of their forefathers. He also recites the wonderful works which God had done for that stiff-necked people, who, tho' he had used them with the greatest indulgence,

they still continued hardened and impenitent; for which reason God declares he will utterly abandon them, and give their habitations to a strange people, who should worship and adore his holy name with a contrite heart and true spirit.

20 *Flowed out to your fill.*] Or, abundantly.

22 *In the river of the Amorites, &c.*] i. e. At the bitter waters, or waters of Marah. See Exod. xv. 23.



26 Whensoever you shall call upon me, I will not hear you: for ye have defiled your hands with blood, and your feet are swift to commit man-slaughter.

27 Ye have not as it were forsaken me, but your own selves, saith the Lord.

28 Thus saith the Almighty Lord, Have I not prayed you as a father his sons, as a mother her daughters, and a nurse her young babes;

29 That ye would be my people, and I should be your God; that ye would be my children, and I should be your father?

30 I gathered you together, as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings: but now, what shall I do unto you? I will cast you out from my face.

31 When you offer unto me, I will turn my face from you: for your solemn feasts, your new-moons, and your circumcisions, have I forsaken.

32 I sent unto you my servants the prophets, whom ye have taken and slain, and torn their bodies in pieces, whose blood I will require of your hands, saith the Lord.

33 Thus saith the Almighty Lord, Your house is desolate, I will cast you out as the wind doth stubble.

34 And your children shall not be fruitful, for they have despised my commandment, and done the thing that is evil before me.

35 Your houses will I give to a people that shall come; which not having heard of me, yet shall believe me; to whom I have shewed no signs, yet they shall do that I have commanded them.

36 They have seen no prophets, yet they shall call their sins to remembrance, and acknowledge them.

37 I take to witness the grace of the people to come, whose little ones rejoice in

gladness: and though they have not seen me with bodily eyes, yet in spirit they believe the thing that I say.

38 And now, brother, behold what glory; and see the people that cometh from the east:

39 Unto whom I will give for leaders, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Oseas, Amos, and Micheas, Joel, Abdias, and Jonas,

40 Nahum, and Abacuc, Sophonias, Aggeus, Zachary, and Malachy, which is called also an angel of the Lord.

#### C H A P. II.

1 God complaineth of his people: 10 Yet Esdras is willed to comfort them. 34 Because they refused, the Gentiles are called. 43 Esdras seeth the Son of God, and those that are crowned by him.

**T**HUS saith the Lord, I brought this people out of bondage, and I gave them my commandments by my servants the prophets; whom they would not hear, but despised my counsels.

2 The mother that bare them, saith unto them, Go your way, ye children, for I am a widow, and forsaken.

3 I brought you up with gladness, but with sorrow and heaviness have I lost you: for ye have sinned before the Lord your God, and done that thing that is evil before him.

4 But what shall I now do unto you? I am a widow, and forsaken: go your way, O my children, and ask mercy of the Lord.

5 As for me, O father, I call upon thee for a witness over the mother of these children, which would not keep my covenant,

6 That thou bring them to confusion, and their mother to a spoil, that there may be no offspring of them.

7 Let them be scattered abroad among the heathen, let their names be put out of the

the earth: for they have despised my covenant.

8 Wo be unto thee, Assur, thou that hidest the unrighteous in thee; O thou wicked people, remember what I did unto Sodom and Gomorrha;

9 Whose land lieth in clods of pitch, and heaps of ashes: even so also will I do unto them that hear me not, saith the Almighty Lord.

10 Thus saith the Lord unto Esdras, Tell my people that I will give them the kingdom of Jerusalem, which I would have given unto Israel.

11 Their glory also will I take unto me, and give these the everlasting tabernacles, which I had prepared for them.

12 They shall have the tree of life for an ointment of sweet savour, they shall neither labour, nor be weary.

13 Go, and ye shall receive: pray for few days unto you, that they may be shortened: the kingdom is already prepared for you: watch.

14 Take heaven and earth to witness; for I have broken the evil in pieces, and created the good: for I live, saith the Lord.

15 Mother, embrace thy children, and bring them up with gladness, make their feet as fast as a pillar: for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord.

16 And those that be dead will I raise up again from their places, and bring them out of the graves: for I have known my name in Israel.

17 Fear not, thou mother of the children: for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord.

18 For thy help will I send my servants Esay and Jeremy, after whose counsel I have

sanctified and prepared for thee, twelve trees laden with divers fruits,

19 And as many fountains flowing with milk and honey, and seven mighty mountains, whereupon there grow roses and lilies, whereby I will fill thy children with joy.

20 Do right to the widow, judge for the fatherless, give to the poor, defend the orphan, clothe the naked,

21 Heal the broken and the weak, laugh not a lame man to scorn, defend the maimed, and let the blind man come into the light of my clearness.

22 Keep the old and young within thy walls.

23 Wheresoever thou findest the dead, take them and bury them, and I will give thee the first place in my resurrection.

24 Abide still, O my people, and take thy rest, for thy quietness shall come.

25 Nourish thy children, O thou good nurse; stablish their feet.

26 As for the servants whom I have given thee, there shall not one of them perish; for I will require them from among thy number.

27 Be not weary: for when the day of trouble and heaviness cometh, others shall weep and be sorrowful, but thou shalt be merry, and have abundance.

28 The heathen shall envy thee, but they shall be able to do nothing against thee, saith the Lord.

29 My hands shall cover thee, so that thy children shall not see hell.

30 Be joyful, O thou mother, with thy children; for I will deliver thee, saith the Lord.

31 Remember thy children that sleep, for I shall bring them out of the sides of the

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## NOTES ON CHAP. II.

Ver. 7 *My covenant.*] Or, my sacrament or oath.

15 *Bring them up with gladness.*] Margin reads, bring them up with gladness, as a dove make their feet fast, &c.

16 *I have known my name in Israel*] Or, thy name, O Israel.

23 *Wheresoever thou findest the dead, &c.*] See Tobit i. 17, 18.



earth, and shew mercy unto them: for I am merciful, saith the Lord Almighty.

32 Embrace thy children until I come, and shew mercy unto them: for my wells run over, and my grace shall not fail.

33 I Esdras received a charge of the Lord upon the mount Oreb, that I should go unto Israel; but when I came unto them they set me at nought, and despised the commandment of the Lord.

34 And therefore I say unto you, O ye heathen, that hear and understand, Look for your Shepherd, he shall give you everlasting rest; for he is nigh at hand, that shall come in the end of the world.

35 Be ready to the reward of the kingdom, for the everlasting light shall shine upon you for evermore.

36 Flee the shadow of this world, receive the joyfulness of your glory: I testify my Saviour openly.

37 O receive the gift that is given you, and be glad, giving thanks unto him that hath called you to the heavenly kingdom.

38 Arise up and stand, behold the number of those that be sealed in the feast of the Lord.

39 Which are departed from the shadow of the world, and have received glorious garments of the Lord.

40 Take thy number, O Sion, and shut up those of thine that are clothed in white, which have fulfilled the law of the Lord.

41 The number of thy children whom thou longedst for, is fulfilled: beseech the power of the Lord, that thy people which have been called from the beginning,

may be hallowed.

42 I Esdras saw upon the mount Sion a great people, whom I could not number, and they all praised the Lord with songs.

43 And in the midst of them there was a young man of a high stature, taller than all the rest, and upon every one of their heads he set crowns, and was more exalted; which I marvelled at greatly.

44 So I asked the angel, and said, Sir, what are these?

45 He answered and said unto me, These be they that have put off the mortal clothing, and put on the immortal, and have confessed the name of God: now are they crowned, and receive palms.

46 Then said I unto the angel, What young person is it that crowneth them, and giveth them palms in their hands?

47 So he answered and said unto me, It is the Son of God, whom they have confessed in the world. Then began I greatly to commend them that stood so stiffly for the name of the Lord.

48 Then the angel said unto me, Go thy way, and tell my people what manner of things, and how great wonders of the Lord thy God thou hast seen.

### CHAP. III.

1 *Esdras is troubled, 13 and acknowledgeth the sins of the people: 28 yet complaineth that the heathen were lords over them, being more wicked than they.*

**I**N the thirtieth year after the ruin of the city, I was in Babylon, and lay troubled upon my bed, and my thoughts came up over my heart.

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32 *And shew mercy.*] Or, preach.

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42 *I Esdras saw upon mount Sion, &c.*] Esdras in this, and the following verses, gives an account of a vision, wherein he sees the Son of God, and those he is pleased to honour with a crown of glory. See Rev. vii. 9.

#### NOTES on Chap. III.

Ver. 1 *In the thirtieth year, &c.*] Esdras relates the

troubles of his spirit at beholding the afflictions of his people, on which he offers up his prayers to the Almighty, acknowledging he gave mankind a being by Adam, who transgressed the divine command. He then proceeds to recite the unbounded mercies of God, in saving Noah from the waters of the flood, whereby the generations of sinners were destroyed from the face of the earth. And tho' the descendants of Noah were afterwards wicked and

2 For I saw the desolation of Sion, and the wealth of them that dwelt at Babylon.

3 And my spirit was sore moved, so that I began to speak words full of fear to the most High, and said,

4 O Lord, who bearest rule, thou spakest at the beginning, when thou didst plant the earth, (and that thyself alone) and commandest the people,

5 And gavest a body unto Adam without soul, which was the workmanship of thine hands, and didst breathe into him the breath of life, and he was made living before thee.

6 And thou leddest him into paradise which thy right hand had planted, before ever the earth came forward.

7 And unto him thou gavest commandment to love thy way: which he transgressed, and immediately thou appointedst death in him, and in his generations, of whom came nations, tribes, people, and kindreds out of number.

8 And every people walked after their own will, and did wonderful things before thee, and despised thy commandments.

9 And again in process of time thou broughtest the flood upon those that dwelt in the world, and destroyedst them.

10 And it came to pass in every of them, that as death was to Adam, so was the flood to these.

11 Nevertheless, one of them thou ledest, namely, Noah with his household, of whom came all righteous men.

12 And it happened, that when they that dwelt upon the earth began to multiply, and had gotten them many children, and were a great people, they began again to be more

ungodly than the first.

13 Now when they lived so wickedly before thee, thou didst choose thee a man from among them, whose name was Abraham.

14 Him thou lovedst, and unto him only thou shewedst thy will:

15 And madest an everlasting covenant with him, promising him that thou wouldest never forsake his seed.

16 And unto him thou gavest Isaac, and unto Isaac also thou gavest Jacob and Esau. As for Jacob, thou didst choose him to thee, and put by Esau: and so Jacob became a great multitude.

17 And it came to pass, that when thou leddest his seed out of Egypt, thou broughtest them up to the mount Sina.

18 And bowing the heavens, thou didst set fast the earth, movedst the whole world, and madest the depths to tremble, and troubledst the men of that age.

19 And thy glory went through four gates, of fire, and of earthquake, and of wind, and of cold; that thou mightest give the law unto the seed of Jacob, and diligence unto the generation of Israel.

20 And yet tookest thou not away from them a wicked heart, that thy law might bring forth fruit in them.

21 For the first Adam bearing a wicked heart, transgressed, and was overcome; and so be all they that are born of him.

22 Thus infirmity was made permanent; and the law (also) in the heart of the people with the malignity of the root; so that the good departed away, and the evil abode still.

23 So the times passed away, and the years

rebellious, yet it pleased God to choose Abraham, and to make with him an everlasting covenant, with a promise to protect and defend his seed. He next recites the deliverance from the Egyptian bondage, and the great mercy of God in calling David to build a city unto his glorious name, where oblations and sacrifices might be offered;

but the inhabitants having hearts filled with wickedness, were deprived of their city and temple by their enemies.

19 *And diligence unto the generation of Israel.* Or, and to all the generations of Israel, that they should keep it with diligence.



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years were brought to an end: then didst thou raise thee up a servant, called David:

24 Whom thou commandedst to build a city unto thy name, and to offer incense and oblations unto thee therein.

25 When this was done many years, then they that inhabited the city forsook thee,

26 And in all things did even as Adam and all his generations had done: for they also had a wicked heart.

27 And so thou gavest thy city over into the hands of thine enemies.

28 Are their deeds then any better that inhabit Babylon, that they should therefore have the dominion over Sion?

29 For when I came thither, and had seen impieties without number, then my soul saw many evil-doers, in this thirtieth year, so that my heart failed me.

30 For I have seen how thou sufferest them sinning, and hast spared wicked doers: and hast destroyed thy people, and hast preserved thine enemies, and hast not signified it.

31 I do not remember how this way may be left: Are they then of Babylon better than they of Sion?

32 Or is there any other people that knoweth thee besides Israel? or what generation hath so believed thy covenants, as Jacob?

33 And yet their reward appeareth not, and their labour hath no fruit: for I have gone here and there through the heathen, and I see that they flow in wealth, and think not upon thy commandments.

34 Weigh thou therefore our wickedness now in the balance, and theirs also that dwell in the world: and so shall thy name no where be found, but in Israel.

35 Or when was it that they which

dwell upon the earth have not sinned in thy sight? or what people hath so kept thy commandments?

36 Thou shalt find that Israel by name hath kept thy precepts; but not the heathen.

#### CHAP. IV.

1 *The angel declareth the ignorance of Esdras in God's judgments, 13 and adviseth him not to meddle with things above his reach. 23 Nevertheless Esdras asketh divers questions, and receiveth answers to them.*

AND the angel that was sent unto me, whose name was Uriel, gave me an answer,

2 And said, Thy heart hath gone too far in this world, and thinkest thou to comprehend the way of the most High?

3 Then said I, Yea, my lord: and he answered me, and said, I am sent to shew thee three ways, and to set forth three similitudes before thee:

4 Whereof if thou canst declare me one, I will shew thee also the way that thou desirest to see, and I shall shew thee from whence the wicked heart cometh.

5 And I said, Tell on, my lord. Then said he unto me, Go thy way, weigh me the weight of the fire, or measure me the blast of the wind, or call me again the day that is past.

6 Then answered I, and said, What man is able to do that, that thou shouldest ask such things of me?

7 And he said unto me, If I should ask thee how great dwellings are in the midst of the sea, or how many springs are in the beginning of the deep, or how many springs are above the firmament, or which are the out-goings of paradise:

8 And

31 *I do not remember.*] Or, I conceive.

#### NOTES on Chap. IV.

Ver. 1 *And the angel that was sent unto me, &c.*] The

prophet having spoken too hastily, the angel was ordered to give him an answer; this he accordingly does, and reproves him for endeavouring to comprehend divine mysteries, which was above the reach of human understanding.

8 Peradventure thou wouldest say unto me, I never went down into the deep, nor as yet into hell, neither did I ever climb up into heaven.

9 Nevertheless, Now have I asked thee but only of the fire, and wind, and of the day wherethrough thou hast passed, and of things from which thou canst not be separated, and yet canst thou give me no answer of them.

10 He said moreover unto me, Thine own things, and such as are grown up with thee canst thou not know.

11 How shall thy vessel then be able to comprehend the way of the Highest, and the world being now outwardly corrupted, to understand the corruption that is evident in my sight.

12 Then said I unto him, It were better that we were not at all, than that we should live still in wickedness, and to suffer and not to know wherefore.

13 He answered me, and said, I went into a forest into a plain, and the trees took counsel,

14 And said, Come let us go and make war against the sea, that it may depart away before us, and that we may make us more woods.

15 The floods of the sea also in like manner took counsel, and said, Come, let us go up and subdue the woods of the plain, that there also we may make us another country.

16 The thought of the wood was in vain, for the fire came and consumed it.

17 The thought of the floods of the sea, came likewise to nought, for the sand stood up and stopt them.

18 If thou wert judge now betwixt these two, whom wouldest thou begin to justify? or whom wouldest thou condemn?

19 I answered and said, Verily it is a foolish thought that they have both devised, for the ground is given unto the wood, and the sea also hath his place to bear his floods.

20 Then answered he me, and said, Thou hast given a right judgment, but why judgest thou not thyself also?

21 For like as the ground is given unto the wood, and the sea to his floods: even so they that dwell upon the earth may understand nothing, but that which is upon the earth: and he that dwelleth above the heavens, may only understand the things that are above the height of the heavens.

22 Then answered I; and said, I beseech thee, O Lord, Let me have understanding.

23 For it was not my mind to be curious of the high things, but of such as pass by us daily, namely, wherefore Israel is given up as a reproach to the heathen, and for what cause the people whom thou hast loved, is given over unto ungodly nations, and why the law of our fore-fathers is brought to nought, and the written covenants come to none effect,

24 And we pass away out of the world as grasshoppers, and our life is astonishment and fear, and we are not worthy to obtain mercy.

25 What will he then do unto his name, whereby we are called? of these things have I asked.

26 Then answered he me, and said, The more thou searchest, the more thou shalt marvel, for the world hasteth fast to pass away,

27 And cannot comprehend the things that are promised to the righteous in time to come: for this world is full of unrighteousness and infirmities.

28 But as concerning the things whereof

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thou

11 *The corruption.*] Or, incorruption.



thou askest me, I will tell thee; for the evil is sown, but the destruction thereof is not yet come.

29 If therefore that which is sown be not turned upside down, and if the place where the evil is sown pass not away, then cannot it come that is sown with good.

30 For the grain of evil seed hath been sown in the heart of Adam from the beginning, and how much ungodliness hath it brought up unto this time? and how much shall it yet bring forth until the time of threshing come?

31 Ponder now by thyself, how great fruit of wickedness the grain of evil seed hath brought forth.

32 And when the ears shall be cut down, which are without number, how great a floor shall they fill?

33 Then I answered and said, How and when shall these things come to pass? wherefore are our years few and evil?

34 And he answered me, saying, Do not thou hasten above the most Highest; for thy haste is in vain to be above him, for thou hast much exceeded.

35 Did not the souls also of the righteous ask question of these things in their chambers, saying, How long shall I hope on this fashion? when cometh the fruit of the floor of our reward.

36 And unto these things, Uriel the arch-angel gave them answer, and said, Even when the number of seeds is filled in you, for he hath weighed the world in the balance.

37 By measure hath he measured the times, and by number hath he numbered the times; and he doth not move nor stir them, until the said measure be fulfilled.

38 Then answered I, and said, O Lord

that bearest rule, even we all are full of impiety.

39 And for our sakes peradventure it is that the floors of the righteous are not filled, because of the sins of them that dwell upon the earth.

40 So he answered me, and said, Go thy way to a woman with child, and ask of her when she hath fulfilled her nine months, if her womb may keep the birth any longer within her.

41 Then said I, No, Lord, that can she not. And he said unto me, In the grave the chambers of souls are like the womb of a woman:

42 For like as a woman that travaileth, maketh haste to escape the necessity of the travail: even so do these places haste to deliver those things that are committed unto them.

43 From the beginning look what thou desirest to see, it shall be shewed thee.

44 Then answered I, and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, and if it be possible, and if I be meet therefore,

45 Shew me then whether there be more to come than is past, or more past than is to come.

46 What is past I know, but what is for to come I know not.

47 And he said unto me, Stand up upon the right side, and I shall expound the similitude unto thee.

48 So I stood and saw, and behold, an hot burning oven passed by before me: and it happened that when the flame was gone by, I looked, and behold, the smoke remained still.

49 After this there passed by before me a watery cloud, and sent down much rain with a storm, and when the stormy rain was

was past, the drops remained still.

50 Then said he unto me, Consider with thyself; as the rain is more than the drops, and as the fire is greater than the smoke: but the drops and the smoke remain behind: so the quantity which is past did more exceed.

51 Then I prayed, and said, May I live, thinkest thou, until that time? or what shall happen in those days?

52 He answered me, and said, As for the tokens whereof thou askest me, I may tell thee of them in part: but as touching thy life, I am not sent to shew thee, for I do not know it.

### C H A P. V.

1 *The signs of the times to come.* 23 *He asketh why God, choosing but one people, did cast them off:* 30 *He is taught, that God's judgments are unsearchable,* 46 *and that God doeth not all at once.*

**N**evertheless, as concerning the tokens, behold, the days shall come, that they which dwell upon earth shall be taken in a great number, and the way of truth shall be hidden, and the land shall be barren of faith.

2 But iniquity shall be increased above that which now thou seest, or that thou hast heard long ago.

3 And the land that thou seest now to have root, shalt thou see wasted suddenly.

4 But if the most High grant thee to live, thou shalt see after the third trumpet, that the sun shall suddenly shine again in the night, and the moon thrice in the day.

5 And blood shall drop out of the wood,

and the stone shall give his voice, and the people shall be troubled.

6 And even he shall rule whom they look not for that dwell upon the earth, and the fowls shall take their flight away together.

7 And the sodomitish sea shall cast out fish, and make a noise in the night, which many have not known: but they shall all hear the voice thereof.

8 There shall be a confusion also in many places, and the fire shall be oft sent out again, and the wild beasts shall change their places, and menstruous women shall bring forth monsters.

9 And salt waters shall be found in the sweet, and all friends shall destroy one another; then shall wit hide itself, and understanding withdraw itself into his secret chamber,

10 And shall be sought of many, and yet not be found: then shall unrighteousness and incontineny be multiplied upon earth.

11 One land also shall ask another, and say, Is righteousness that maketh a man righteous gone through thee? And it shall say, No.

12 At the same time shall men hope, but nothing obtain: they shall labour, but their ways shall not prosper.

13 To shew thee such tokens I have leave; and if thou wilt pray again, and weep as now, and fast seven days, thou shalt hear yet greater things.

14 Then I awaked, and an extreme fearfulness went through all my body, and my mind was troubled, so that it fainted.

15 So

51 *What shall happen.] Or, who shall be?* Manuscript.

### NOTES on Chap. V.

Ver. 1 *Nevertheless, as concerning the tokens, &c.]* Justice and truth being wholly banished from the land, God gives tokens of his vengeance to come. This the prophet saw in a vision, and was exceedingly terrified, but is supported and comforted by an angel. And hence we should learn under all kinds of tribulation whatever, to trust solely on the mercy and goodness of the Almighty, and repose ourselves under the shadow of his wings: then may we

smile at destruction when it cometh, and behold, without terror, the ravages of the wide wasting pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the devastations of the sword that destroyeth at noon day.

*Shall be taken in a great number.]* Or, shall be found with great wealth.

3 *And the land that thou seest now, &c.]* Or, that thou treadest upon, and seest.

8 *Sent out again.]* Or, flaked.

12 *Shall not prosper.]* Or, be directed.



15 So the angel that was come to talk with me, held me, comforted me, and set me up upon my feet.

16 And in the second night it came to pass, that Salathiel the captain of the people came unto me, saying, Where hast thou been, and why is thy countenance so heavy?

17 Knowest thou not that Israel is committed unto thee, in the land of their captivity?

18 Up then, and eat bread, and forsake us not, as the shepherd that leaveth his flock in the hands of cruel wolves.

19 Then said I unto him, Go thy ways from me, and come not nigh me: and he heard what I said, and went from me.

20 And so I fasted seven days, mourning and weeping, like as Uriel the angel commanded me.

21 And after seven days, so it was that the thoughts of my heart were very grievous unto me again.

22 And my soul recovered the spirit of understanding, and I began to talk with the most High again.

23 And said, O Lord, that bearest rule, of every wood of the earth, and of all the trees thereof, thou hast chosen thee one only vine:

24 And of all lands of the whole world, thou hast chosen thee one pit: and of all the flowers thereof, one lily:

26 And of all the depths of the sea, thou hast filled thee one river: and of all builded cities thou hast hallowed Sion unto thyself:

25 And of all the fowls that are created, thou hast named thee one dove: and of all

the cattle that are made, thou hast provided thee one sheep:

27 And among all the multitude of peoples, thou hast gotten thee one people: and unto this people whom thou lovedst, thou gavest a law that is approved of all.

28 And now, O Lord, why hast thou given this one people over unto many? and upon the one root hast thou prepared others, and why hast thou scattered thy only one people among many?

29 And they which did gainsay thy promises, and believed not thy covenants, have trodden them down.

30 If thou didst so much hate thy people, yet shouldest thou punish them with thine own hands.

31 Now when I had spoken these words, the angel that came to me the night afore, was sent unto me,

32 And said unto me, Hear me, and I will instruct thee; hearken to the thing that I say, and I shall tell thee more.

33 And I said, Speak on, my lord: then said he unto me, Thou art sore troubled in mind for Israel's sake: lovest thou that people better than he that made them?

34 And I said, No, Lord, but of very grief have I spoken: for my reins pain me every hour, while I labour to comprehend the way of the most High, and to seek out part of his judgment.

35 And he said unto me, Thou canst not: and I said, Wherefore, Lord? whereunto was I born then? or why was not my mothers womb then my grave, that I might not have seen the travail of Jacob, and the wearisome toil of the stock of Israel?

36 And he said unto me, Number me the

20 *I fasted seven days, &c.*] Efdras continued his fast seven days, mourning and bewailing the unhappy lot of the stock of Jacob; at the end of which term his understanding returned, and he asked why Jehovah, who had chosen the seed of Abraham for his own people, should utterly reject them, and make them a scorn to the heathen? This be-

ing an improper question, he is reproved by the angel, and informed that the mysteries and judgments of the Almighty are far above the comprehension of sinful mortals.

28 *And upon one foot.*] Or, over one foot.

33 *Lovest thou that people, &c.*] See ch. viii. 47.

the things that are not yet come, gather me together the drops that are scattered abroad, make me the flowers green again that are withered,

37 Open me the places that are closed, and bring me forth the winds that in them are shut up, shew me the image of a voice: and then I will declare to thee the thing that thou labourest to know.

38 And I said, O Lord, that bearest rule, who may know these things, but he that hath not his dwelling with men?

39 As for me, I am unwise: how may I then speak of these things whereof thou askest me?

40 Then said he unto me, Like as thou canst do none of these things that I have spoken of, even so canst thou not find out my judgment, or in the end the love that I have promised unto my people.

41 And I said, Behold, O Lord, yet art thou nigh unto them that be reserved till the end: and what shall they do, that have been before me, or we (that be now) or they that shall come after us?

42 And he said unto me, I will liken my judgment unto a ring: like as there is no slackness of the last, even so there is no swiftness of the first.

43 So I answered and said, Couldst thou not make those that have been made, and be now, and that are for to come, at once; that thou mightest shew thy judgment the sooner.

44 Then answered he me, and said, The creature may not haste above the maker, neither may the world hold them at once that shall be created therein.

45 And I said, As thou hast said unto thy servant, that thou which givest life to all, hast given life at once to the creature that thou hast created, and the creature

bare it: even so it might now also bare them that now be present at once.

46 And he said unto me, Ask the womb of a woman, and say unto her, If thou bringest forth children, why dost thou it not together, but one after another? pray her therefore to bring forth ten children at once.

47 And I said, She cannot: but must do it by distance of time.

48 Then said he unto me, Even so have I given the womb of the earth to those that be sown in it, in their times.

49 For like as a young child may not bring forth the things that belong to the aged, even so have I disposed the world which I created.

50 And I asked, and said, Seeing thou hast not given me the way, I will proceed to speak before thee: for our mother, of whom thou hast told me that she is young, draweth now nigh unto age.

51 He answered me and said, Ask a woman that beareth children, and she shall tell thee.

52 Say unto her, Wherefore are not they whom thou hast now brought forth, like those that were before, but less of stature?

53 And she shall answer thee, They that be born in the strength of youth, are of one fashion, and they that are born in the time of age (when the womb faileth) are otherwise.

54 Consider thou therefore also, how that ye are less of stature than those that were before you.

55 And so are they that come after you, less than ye, as the creatures which now begin to be old, and have passed over the strength of youth.

56 Then said I, Lord, I beseech thee,  
L if



if I have found favour in thy sight, shew thy servant by whom thou visitest thy creature.

### CHAP. VI.

1 *God's purpose is eternal.* 8 *The next world shall follow this immediately.* 13 *What shall fall out at the last.* 31 *He is promised more knowledge,* 38 *and reckoneth up the works of the creation,* 57 *and complaineth that they have no part in the world for whom it was made.*

**A**ND he said unto me, in the beginning, when the earth was made, before the borders of the world stood, or ever the winds blew,

2 Before it thundered and lightened, or ever the foundations of paradise were laid,

3 Before the fair flowers were seen, or ever the moveable powers were established; before the innumerable multitude of angels were gathered together,

4 Or ever the heights of the air were lifted up, before the measures of the firmament were named, or ever the chimneys in Sion were hot,

5 And ere the present years were sought out, and or ever the inventions of them that now sin, were turned, before they were sealed that have gathered faith for a treasure:

6 Then did I consider these things, and they all were made through me alone, and through none other: by me also they shall be ended, and by none other.

7 Then answered I, and said, What shall be the parting asunder of the times? or when shall be the end of the first, and the beginning of it that followeth?

8 And he said unto me, From Abraham

unto Isaac, when Jacob and Esau were born of him, Jacob's hand held first the heel of Esau.

9 For Esau is the end of the world, and Jacob is the beginning of it that followeth.

10 The hand of man is betwixt the heel and the hand: other question, Esdras, ask thou not.

11 ¶ I answered then, and said, O Lord that bearest rule, if I have found favour in thy sight,

12 I beseech thee, shew thy servant the end of thy tokens, whereof thou shewedst me part the last night.

13 So he answered, and said unto me, Stand up upon thy feet, and hear a mighty sounding voice.

14 And it shall be as it were a great motion, but the place where thou standest shall not be moved.

15 And therefore when it speaketh, be not afraid: for the word is of the end, and the foundation of the earth is understood.

16 And why? because the speech of these things trembleth, and is moved: for it knoweth that the end of these things must be changed.

17 And it happened that when I had heard it, I stood up upon my feet, and hearkened, and behold, there was a voice that spake, and the sound of it was like the sound of many waters.

18 And it said, Behold, the days come, that I will begin to draw nigh, and to visit them that dwell upon the earth,

19 And will begin to make inquisition of them, what they be that have hurt unjustly with their unrighteousness, and when the

### NOTES ON CHAP. VI.

Ver. 1 *When the earth was made.*] Or, the circle of the earth.

8 *First.*] Or, from the beginning.

14 *A great motion,*] Or, earthquake.

18 *Behold the days come, &c.*] The prophet is here informed, that the next world, the new heaven and the new earth, shall succeed this immediately, and what astonishing things shall happen when this world shall be dissolved, and time shall give place to eternity.

the affliction of Sion shall be fulfilled.

20 And when the world that shall begin to vanish away, shall be finished, then will I shew these tokens: the books shall be opened before the firmament, and they shall see all together.

21 And the children of a year old shall speak with their voices, the women with child, shall bring forth untimely children, of three or four months old, and they shall live and be raised up.

22 And suddenly shall the sown places appear unsown, the full store-houses shall suddenly be found empty.

23 And the trumpet shall give a sound, which when every man heareth, they shall be suddenly afraid.

24 At that time shall friends fight one against another like enemies, and the earth shall stand in fear with those that dwell therein, the springs of the fountains shall stand still, and in three hours they shall not run.

25 Whosoever remaineth from all these that I have told thee, shall escape and see my salvation, and the end of your world.

26 And the men that are received shall see it, who have not tasted death from their birth: and the heart of the inhabitants shall be changed, and turned into another meaning.

27 For evil shall be put out, and deceit shall be quenched.

28 As for faith it shall flourish, corruption shall be overcome, and the truth which hath been so long without fruit, shall be declared.

29 And when he talked with me, behold,

I looked by little and little upon him before whom I stood.

30 And these words said he unto me, I am come to shew thee the time of the night to come.

31 If thou wilt pray yet more, and fast seven days again, I shall tell thee greater things by day, than I have heard.

32 For thy voice is heard before the most High: for the Mighty hath seen thy righteous dealing, he hath seen also thy chastity, which thou hast had ever since thy youth.

33 And therefore hath he sent me to shew thee all these things, and to say unto thee, Be of good comfort, and fear not.

34 And hasten not with the times that are past, to think vain things, that thou mayest not hasten from the latter times.

35 And it came to pass after this, that I wept again, and fasted seven days in like manner, that I might fulfil the three weeks which he told me.

36 And in the eighth night was my heart vexed within me again, and I began to speak before the most High.

37 For my spirit was greatly set on fire, and my soul was in distress.

38 And I said, O Lord, thou spakest from the beginning of the creation, even the first day, and saidst thus, Let heaven and earth be made; and thy word was a perfect work.

39 And then was the spirit, and darknesses and silence were on every side; the sound of man's voice was not yet formed.

40 Then commandest thou a fair light to come forth of thy treasures, that thy work

20 *Shall be finished.*] Or, sealed.

23 *The trumpet shall give a sound, &c.*] See 1 Cor. xv. 52.

31 *I shall tell thee greater things by day, &c.*] See chap. xiii. 52.

38 *O Lord, thou speakest from the beginning, &c.*] The prophet here recounts the seven days work of the creation,

and complains in the most pathetic terms, that neither himself, nor the rest of the small remnant of the seed of Jacob, have any comfort, because of the exultation of their enemies, who had laid the courts of Sion waste, trodden down Jerusalem, and carried her sons and daughters into captivity.



work might appear.

41 Upon the second day thou madest the spirit of the firmament, and commandest it to part asunder, and to make a division betwixt the waters, that the one part might go up, and the other remain beneath.

42 Upon the third day thou didst command that the waters should be gathered in the seventh part of the earth: six parts hast thou dried up, and kept them, to the intent that of these some being planted of God, and tilled, might serve thee.

43 For as soon as thy word went forth, the work was made.

44 For immediately there was great and innumerable fruit, and many and divers pleasures for the taste, and flowers of unchangeable colour, and odours of wonderful smell: and this was done the third day.

45 Upon the fourth day thou commandedst that the sun should shine, and the moon give her light, and the stars should be in order:

46 And gavest them a charge to do service unto man that was to be made.

47 Upon the fifth day, thou saidst unto the seventh part where the waters were gathered, that it should bring forth living creatures, fowls and fishes: and so it came to pass.

48 For the dumb water, and without life, brought forth living things at the commandment of God, that all people might praise thy wondrous works.

49 Then didst thou ordain two living creatures, the one thou calledst Enoch, and the other Leviathan;

50 And didst separate the one from the other: for the seventh part (namely where the water was gathered together) might not hold them both.

51 Unto Enoch thou gavest one part

which was dried up the third day, that he should dwell in the same part, wherein are a thousand hills.

52 But unto Leviathan thou gavest the seventh part, namely the moist, and hast kept him to be devoured of whom thou wilt, and when.

53 Upon the sixth day thou gavest commandment unto the earth, that before thee it should bring forth beasts, cattle, and creeping things:

54 And after these, Adam also whom thou madest lord of all thy creatures; of him come we all, and the people also whom thou hast chosen.

55 All this have I spoken before thee, O Lord, because thou madest the world for our sakes.

56 As for the other people which also come of Adam, thou hast said that they are nothing, but be like unto spittle, and hast likened the abundance of them unto a drop that falleth from a vessel.

57 And now, O Lord, behold, these heathen, which have ever been reputed as nothing, have begun to be Lords over us, and to devour us.

58 But we thy people (whom thou hast called thy first-born, thy only-begotten, and thy fervent lover) are given into their hands.

59 If the world now be made for our sakes, why do we not possess an inheritance with the world? how long shall this endure?

## CHAP. VII.

4 The way is narrow. 12 When it was made narrow. 28 All shall die, and rise again. 33 Christ shall sit in judgment. 46 God hath not made paradise in vain: 62 He is merciful.

AND

AND when I had made an end of speaking these words, there was sent unto me the angel which had been sent unto me the nights afore.

2 And he said unto me, Up, Efdras, and hear the words that I am come to tell thee.

3 And I said, Speak on, my God. Then said he unto me, The sea is set in a wide place, that it might be deep and great.

4 But put the case the entrance were narrow, and like a river,

5 Who then could go into the sea to look upon it, and to rule it? if he went not through the narrow, how could he come into the broad?

6 There is also another thing. A city is builded, and set upon a broad field, and is full of all good things:

7 The entrance thereof is narrow, and is set in a dangerous place to fall, like as if there were a fire on the right hand, and on the left a deep water.

8 And one only path between them both, even between the fire and the water, so small that there could but one man go there at once.

9 If this city now were given unto a man for an inheritance, if he never shall pass the danger set before it, how shall he receive this inheritance?

10 And I said, It is so, Lord. Then said he unto me, even so also is Israel's portion.

11 Because for their sakes I made the world: and when Adam transgressed my statutes, then was decreed that now is done.

12 Then were the entrances of this world made narrow, full of sorrow and travel: they are but few and evil, full of

perils, and very painful.

13 For the entrances of the elder world were wide and sure, and brought immortal fruit.

14 If then they that live, labour not to enter these straight and vain things, they can never receive those that are laid up for them.

15 Now therefore why disquietest thou thyself, seeing thou art but a corruptible man? and why art thou moved, whereas thou art but mortal?

16 Why hast thou not considered in thy mind this thing that is to come, rather than that which is present?

17 Then answered I, and said, O Lord that bearest rule, thou hast ordained in thy law, that the righteous should inherit these things, but that the ungodly should perish.

18 Nevertheless, the righteous shall suffer straight things, and hope for wide: for they that have done wickedly, have suffered the strait things, and yet shall not see the wide.

19 And he said unto me, There is no judge above God, and none that hath understanding above the Highest.

20 For there be many that perish in this life, because they despise the law of God that is set before them.

21 For God hath given strait commandment to such as came, what they should do to live, even as they came, and what they should observe to avoid punishment.

22 Nevertheless, they were not obedient unto him; but spake against him, and imagined vain things.

23 And deceived themselves by their wicked deeds, and said of the most High,

M that

#### NOTES on Chap. VII.

Ver. 3 *The sea is in a wide place, &c.*] The prophet is informed, under the similitude of a narrow passage into the sea, and the strait entrance into a city, of the portion of Is-

rael; and why the entrances into this world are narrow, and the days of men are few and evil, full of sorrow and travail.

7 *In a dangerous place.*] Or, a steep place.

13 *The elder world.*] Or, greater world.



that he is not, and knew not his ways:

24 But his law have they despised, and denied his covenant; in his statutes have they not been faithful, and have not performed his works.

25 And therefore, Esdras, for the empty are empty things, and for the full are the full things.

26 Behold, the time shall come, that these tokens which I have told thee shall come to pass, and the bride shall appear, and she coming forth shall be seen, that now is withdrawn from the earth.

27 And whosoever is delivered from the foresaid evils, shall see my wonders.

28 For my son Jesus shall be revealed with those that be with him, and they that remain shall rejoice within four hundred years.

29 After these years shall my son Christ die, and all men that have life.

30 And the world shall be turned into the old silence seven days, like as in the former judgments: so that no man shall remain.

31 And after seven days, the world that yet awaketh not, shall be raised up, and that shall die that is corrupt.

32 And the earth shall restore those that are asleep in her, and so shall the dust those that dwell in silence, and the secret places shall deliver those souls that were committed unto them.

33 And the most High shall appear upon the seat of judgment, and misery shall pass away, and the long-suffering shall have an end.

34 But judgment only shall remain, truth shall stand, and faith shall wax strong:

35 And the work shall follow, and the reward shall be shewed, and the good deeds

shall be of force, and wicked deeds shall bear no rule.

36 Then said I, Abraham prayed first for the Sodomites, and Moses for the fathers that sinned in the wilderness:

37 And Jesus after him for Israel in the time of Achan:

38 And Samuel, and David for the destruction: and Solomon for them that should come to the sanctuary:

39 And Helias for those that received rain, and for the dead, that he might live:

40 And Ezekias for the people in the time of Sennacherib: and many for many.

41 Even so now, seeing corruption is grown up, and wickedness increased, and the righteous have prayed for the ungodly; wherefore shall it not be so now also?

42 He answered me and said, This present life is not the end where much glory doth abide; therefore have they prayed for the weak.

43 But the day of doom shall be the end of this time, and the beginning of the immortality for to come, wherein corruption is past.

44 Intemperance is at an end, infidelity is cut off, righteousness is grown, and truth is sprung up.

45 Then shall no man be able to save him that is destroyed, nor to oppress him that hath gotten the victory.

46 I answered then and said, This is my first and last saying, that it had been better not to have given the earth unto Adam: or else when it was given him, to have restrained him from sinning.

37 For what profit is it for men now in this present time to live in heaviness, and after death to look for punishment?

48 O thou Adam, what hast thou done?  
for

37 *In the time of Achan.*] Or, Achor.

48 *O thou Adam, what hast thou done? &c.*] Esdras laments the state of man, and his fall, and says, It had

been better for him if he had never been created. But the angel shews him, that it is in a man's own power to be happy, by following the precepts, and obeying the com-

for though it was thou that sinned, thou art not fallen alone, but we all that come of thee.

49 For what profit is it unto us, if there be promised us an immortal time, whereas we have done the works that bring death?

50 And that there is promised us an everlasting hope, whereas ourselves being most wicked are made vain.

51 And that there are laid up for us dwellings of health and safety, whereas we have lived wickedly.

52 And that the glory of the most High is kept to defend them which have led a wary life, whereas we have walked in the most wicked ways of all?

53 And that there should be shewed a paradise, whose fruit endureth for ever, wherein is security and medicine, sith we shall not enter into it?

54 (For we have walked in unpleasant places)

55 And that the faces of them which have used abstinence, shall shine above the stars, whereas our faces shall be blacker than darkness?

56 For while we lived, and committed iniquity, we considered not that we should begin to suffer for it after death.

57 Then answered he me, and said, This is the condition of the battle, which man that is born upon the earth shall fight;

58 That if he be overcome, he shall suffer as thou hast said: but if he get the victory, he shall receive the thing that I say.

59 For this is the life whereof Moses spake unto the people while he lived, saying, Choose thee life, that thou mayest live.

60 Nevertheless, they believed not him, nor yet the prophets after him, no nor me which have spoken unto them,

61 That there should not be such heaviness in their destruction, as shall be joy over them that are persuaded to salvation.

62 I answered then, and said, I know, Lord, that the most High is called merciful, in that he hath mercy upon them which are not yet come into the world,

63 And upon those also that turn to his law;

64 And that he is patient, and long suffereth those that have sinned, as his creatures;

65 And that he is bountiful, for he is ready to give where it needeth;

66 And that he is of great mercy, for he multiplieth more and more mercies to them that are present, and that are past, and also to them which are to come.

67 For if he shall not multiply his mercies, the world would not continue with them that inherit therein.

68 And he pardoneth; for if he did not so of his goodness, that they which have committed iniquities, might be eased of them; the ten thousandth part of men should not remain living.

69 And being judge, if he should not forgive them that are cured with his word, and put out the multitude of contentions,

70 There should be very few left per-adventure in an innumerable multitude.

## C H A P. VIII.

1 Many created, but few saved: 6 He asketh why God destroyeth his own work, 26 and prayeth God to look upon the people which

mands of the most High: whereas those that despise his offers of mercy, and follow the wide path that leadeth to destruction, will surely reap the fruits of their doings, and plunge themselves into perdition.

52 A wary life.] Or, a chaste life.

53 Security.] Or, fulness.

57 The condition of the battle.] Or, the intent.

59 Choose thee life, &c.] See Deut. xxx. 19.

63 Them that are cured.] Or, created.

Contentions.] Or, contempts.



*which only serve him. 41 God answereth, that all seed cometh not to good, 52 and that glory is prepared for him and such like.*

**A**ND he answered me, saying, The most High hath made this world for many, but the world to come for few.

2 I will tell thee a similitude, Esdras; As when thou askest the earth, it shall say unto thee, that it giveth much mould whereof earthen vessels are made, but little dust that gold cometh of: even so is the course of this present world.

3 There be many created, but few shall be saved.

4 So answered I, and said, Swallow then down, O my soul, understanding, and devour wisdom.

5 For thou hast agreed to give ear, and art willing to prophesy: for thou hast no longer space than only to live.

6 O Lord, if thou suffer not thy servant that we may pray before thee, and thou give us seed unto our heart, and culture to our understanding, that there may come fruit of it; how shall each man live that is corrupt, who beareth the place of a man?

7 For thou art alone, and we all one workmanship of thine hands, like as thou hast said.

8 For when the body is fashioned now in the mother's womb, and thou givest it members, thy creature is preserved in fire and water, and nine months doth thy workmanship endure thy creature which is created in her.

9 But that which keepeth, and is kept, shall both be preserved: and when the time cometh, the womb preserved, delivereth

up the things that grew in it.

10 For thou hast commanded out of the parts of the body, that is to say, out of the breasts milk to be given, which is the fruit of the breasts,

11 That the thing which is fashioned, may be nourished for a time, till thou disposest it to thy mercy.

12 Thou broughtest it up with thy righteousness, and nurturedst it in thy law, and reformedst it with thy judgment.

13 And thou shalt mortify it as thy creature, and quicken it as thy work.

14 If therefore thou shalt destroy him which with so great labour was fashioned, it is an easy thing to be ordained by thy commandment, that the thing which was made might be preserved.

15 Now therefore, Lord, I will speak (touching man in general, thou knowest best) but touching thy people, for whose sake I am sorry;

16 And for thine inheritance, for whose cause I mourn: and for Israel, for whom I am heavy; and for Jacob, for whose sake I am troubled:

17 Therefore will I begin to pray before thee, for myself and for them: for I see the falls of us that dwell in the land.

18 But I have heard the swiftness of the judgment which is to come.

19 Therefore hear my voice, and understand my words, and I shall speak before thee: this is the beginning of the words of Esdras, before he was taken up: and I said,

20 O Lord, thou that dwellest in everlastingness, which beholdest from above, things in the heaven and in the air,

21 Whose

### NOTES on Chap. VIII.

Ver. 1 *The most High hath made this world, &c.]* The angel here informs Esdras that there are many created, but few saved. The prophet is surprized at this, and asks,

with some earnestness, why God who so curiously, fashioned man in the womb, should destroy the work of his own hand?

20 *O Lord, thou that dwellest in everlastingness, &c.]* Esdras prays for the Israelites, being sensible of approaching

21 Whose throne is inestimable, whose glory may not be comprehended, before whom the hosts of angels stand with trembling,

22 (Whose service is conversant in wind and fire) whose word is true, and sayings constant, whose commandment is strong, and ordinance fearful,

23 Whose look drieth up the depths, and indignation maketh the mountains to melt away, which the truth witnesseth:

24 O hear the prayer of thy servant, and give ear to the petition of thy creature.

25 For while I live, I will speak, and so long as I have understanding, I will answer.

26 O look not upon the sins of thy people: but on them which serve thee in truth.

27 Regard not the wicked inventions of the heathen, but the desire of those that keep thy testimonies in afflictions.

28 Think not upon those that have walked feignedly before thee: but remember them, which according to thy will have known thy fear.

29 Let it not be thy will to destroy them which have lived like beasts; but to look upon them that have clearly taught thy law.

30 Take thou no indignation at them which are deemed worse than beasts: but love them that alway put their trust in thy righteousness and glory.

31 For we and our fathers do languish of such diseases: but because of us sinners, thou shalt be called merciful.

32 For if thou hast a desire to have mercy upon us, thou shalt be called merciful, to us namely, that have no works of righteousness.

33 For the just which have many good works laid up with thee, shall out of their own deeds receive reward.

34 For what is man, that thou shouldest take displeasure at him? or what is a corruptible generation, that thou shouldest be so bitter toward it.

35 For in truth there is no man among them that be born, but he hath dealt wickedly, and among the faithful there is none which hath not done amiss.

36 For in this, O Lord, thy righteousness and thy goodness shall be declared, if thou be merciful unto them which have not the confidence of good works.

37 Then answered he me, and said, Some things hast thou spoken aright, and according unto thy words it shall be.

38 For indeed I will not think on the disposition of them which have sinned before death, before judgment, before destruction.

39 But I will rejoice over the disposition of the righteous, and I will remember also their pilgrimage, and the salvation, and the reward that they shall have.

40 Like as I have spoken now, so shall it come to pass.

41 For as the husbandman soweth much seed upon the ground, and planteth many trees, and yet the thing that is sown good in his season cometh not up, neither doth all that is planted take root: even so is it of them that are sown in the world, they shall not all be saved.

42 I answered then and said, If I have found grace, let me speak.

43 Like as the husbandman's seed perissheth, if it come not up, and receive not thy rain in due season, or if there come too much rain, and corrupt it:

N

44 Even

judgments, and begs God not to look upon the sins of the people, but on them who serve him in sincerity and truth.

36 *The confidence of good works.*] Or, the substance.



44 Even so perisheth man also which is formed with thy hands, and is called thine own image, because thou art like unto him, for whose sake thou hast made all things, and likened him unto the husbandman's seed.

45 Be not wroth with us, but spare thy people, and have mercy upon thine own inheritance: for thou art merciful unto thy creature.

46 Then answered he me, and said, Things present, are for the present, and things to come, for such as be to come.

47 For thou comest far short, that thou shouldest be able to love my creature more than I: but I have oft-times drawn nigh unto thee, and unto it, but never to the unrighteous.

48 In this also thou art marvellous before the most High:

49 In that thou hast humbled thyself as it becometh thee, and hast not judged thyself worthy to be much glorified among the righteous.

50 For many great miseries shall be done to them, that in the latter time shall dwell in the world, because they have walked in great pride.

51 But understand thou for thyself, and seek out the glory for such as be like thee.

52 For unto you is paradise opened, the tree of life is planted, the time to come is prepared, plenteousness is made ready, a city is builded, and rest is allowed, yea, perfect goodness and wisdom.

53 The root of evil is sealed up from you, weakness and the moth is hid from you, and corruption is fled into hell to be forgotten:

54 Sorrows are passed, and in the end is

shewed the treasure of immortality.

55 And therefore ask thou no more questions concerning the multitude of them that perish.

56 For when they had taken liberty, they despised the most High, thought scorn of his law, and forsook his ways.

57 Moreover they have trodden down his righteous,

58 And said in their heart, that there is no God: yea, and that knowing they must die.

59 For as the things afore said shall receive you, so thirst and pain are prepared for them: for it was not his will that men should come to nought.

60 But they which be created, have defiled the name of him that made them, and were unthankful unto him which prepared life for them.

61 And therefore is my judgment now at hand.

62 These things have I not shewed unto all men, but unto thee, and a few like thee. Then answered I, and said,

63 Behold, O Lord, now hast thou shewed me the multitude of the wonders which thou wilt begin to do in the last times: but at what time, thou hast not shewed me.

#### CHAP. IX.

7 *Who shall be saved, and who not.* 19 *All the world is now corrupted;* 22 *yet God doth save a few:* 33 *He complaineth that those perish which keep God's law:* 38 *and seeth a woman lamenting in a field.*

**H**E answered me then, and said, Measure thou the time diligently in itself: and when thou seest part of the signs past, which I have told thee before,

2 Then

47 *For thou comest far short, &c.]* See ch. v. 33.  
53 *Into hell.]* Or, the grave.

NOTES on Chap. IX.  
Ver. 1 *Measure thou the time, &c.]* The prophet is in

2 Then shalt thou understand, that it is the very same time wherein the Highest will begin to visit the world which he made.

3 Therefore when there shall be seen earthquakes and uproars of the people in the world :

4 Then shalt thou well understand, that the most High spake of those things from the days that were before thee, even from the beginning.

5 For like as all that is made in the world hath a beginning and an end, and the end is manifest :

6 Even so the times also of the Highest, have plain beginnings in wonders and powerful works, and endings in effects and signs.

7 And every one that shall be saved, and shall be able to escape by his works, and by faith, whereby ye have believed,

8 Shall be preserved from the said perils, and shall see my salvation, in my land, and within my borders : for I have sanctified them for me from the beginning.

9 Then shall they be in pitiful case, which now have abused my ways : and they that have cast them away despitefully, shall dwell in torments.

10 For such as in their life have received benefits, and have not known me ;

11 And they that have loathed my law, while they had yet liberty, and when as yet place of repentance was open unto them, understood not, but despised it ;

12 The same must know it after death by pain.

13 And therefore be thou not curious, how the ungodly shall be punished, and when : but enquire how the righteous shall be saved, whose the world is, and for whom the world is created.

14 Then answered I, and said,

15 I have said before, and now do speak, and will speak it also hereafter ; that there be many more of them which perish, than of them which shall be saved :

16 Like as a wave is greater than a drop.

17 And he answered me, saying, Like as the field is, so is also the seed ; as the flowers be, such are the colours also ; such as the workman is, such also is the work ; and as the husbandman is himself, so is his husbandry also : for it was the time of the world.

18 And now when I prepared the world which was not yet made, even for them to dwell in that now live, no man spake against me.

19 For then every one obeyed, but now the manners of them which are created in this world that is made, are corrupted by a perpetual seed, and by a law which is unsearchable, rid themselves.

20 So I considered the world, and behold there was peril, because of the devices that were come into it.

21 And I saw and spared it greatly, and have

this chapter informed who shall be saved, and the conditions on which they shall enter the regions of happiness in the heavenly Canaan. He is also informed, that the wicked, after they have passed the valley of the shadow of death, shall certainly be punished.

9 *Then shall they be in pitiful case, &c.*] Margin reads, They shall marvel.

13 *Be thou not curious to know, &c.*] Men are not to be too curious in inquiring into the secret acts of providence ; as he who spake the world into existence has thought proper to conceal them from the sons of men.

18 *And now when I prepared the world, &c.*] Margin, And now because the time of the world was come when I was preparing the world, &c.

19 *Then every one obeyed, &c.*] Esdras is here informed, that a general corruption had overspread the world ; but God in his infinite mercy will save a remnant.

*But now the manners of them which are created, &c.*] Margin, But when the world was made, both now and then, the manners of every one created were corrupted by a never-failing harvest, and a law unsearchable.



have kept me a grape of the cluster, and a plant of a great people.

22 Let the multitude perish then, which was born in vain, and let my grape be kept, and my plant: for with great labour have I made it perfect.

23 Nevertheless, if thou wilt cease yet seven days more (but thou shalt not fast in them,

24 But go into a field of flowers, where no house is builded, and eat only the flowers of the field: taste no flesh, drink no wine, but eat flowers only.)

25 And pray unto the Highest continually, then will I come and talk with thee.

26 So I went my way into the field which is called Ardath, like as he commanded me, and there I sat amongst the flowers, and did eat of the herbs of the field, and the meat of the same satisfied me.

27 After seven days, I sat upon the grass, and my heart was vexed within me, like as before.

28 And I opened my mouth, and began to talk before the most High, and said,

29 O Lord, thou that shewest thyself unto us, thou wast shewed unto our fathers in the wilderness, in a place where no man treadeth, in a barren place when they came out of Egypt.

30 And thou spakest, saying, Hear me, O Israel, and mark my words, thou seed of Jacob.

31 For behold, I sowed my law in you, and it shall bring fruit in you, and ye shall be honoured in it for ever.

32 But our fathers which received the law, kept it not, and observed not thy ordinances: and though the fruit of thy law

did not perish, neither could it, for it was thine;

33 Yet they that received it, perished, because they kept not the thing that was sown in them.

34 And now, it is a custom, when the ground hath received seed, or the sea a ship, or any vessel meat or drink, that, that being perished wherein it was sown, or cast into,

35 That thing also which was sown, or cast therein, or received, doth perish, and remaineth not with us: but with us it hath not happened so.

36 For we that have received the law perish by sin, and our heart also which received it.

37 Notwithstanding the law perisheth not, but remaineth in his force.

38 And when I spake these things in my heart, I looked back with mine eyes, and upon the right side I saw a woman, and behold, she mourned and wept with a loud voice, and was much grieved in heart, and her clothes were rent, and she had ashes upon her head.

39 Then let I my thoughts go that I was in, and turned me unto her,

40 And said unto her, Wherefore weepest thou? why art thou so grieved in thy mind?

41 And she said unto me, Sir, let me alone, that I may bewail myself, and add unto my sorrow, for I am sore vexed in my mind, and brought very low.

42 And I said unto her, What aileth thee? tell me.

43 She said unto me, I thy servant have been barren, and had no child, though I had an husband thirty years.

44 And

22 *My grape.*] Or, grain.

33 *They that received it perished, &c.*] The prophet complains, that some of the people who kept the law perished, and that all their righteousness could not shield them from

destruction.

38 *I looked back—and upon the right side, I saw, &c.*] See ch. x. 44.

44 And those thirty years I did nothing else day and night, and every hour, but make my prayer to the Highest.

45 After thirty years God heard me thine handmaid, looked upon my misery, considered my trouble, and gave me a son: and I was very glad of him, so was my husband also, and all my neighbours, and we gave great honour unto the Almighty.

46 And I nourished him with great travel.

47 So when he grew up, and came to the time that he should have a wife, I made a feast.

### CHAP. X.

1 *He comforteth the woman in the field: 27 She vanisheth away, and a city appeareth in her place. 40 The angel declareth these visions in the field.*

AND it so came to pass, that when my son was entered into his wedding-chamber, he fell down and died.

2 Then we all overthrew the lights, and all my neighbours rose up to comfort me: so I took my rest unto the second day at night.

3 And it came to pass when they had all left off to comfort me, to the end I might be quiet: then rose I up by night and fled, and came hither into this field, as thou seest.

4 And I do now purpose not to return into the city, but here to stay, and neither to eat nor drink, but continually to mourn and to fast until I die.

5 Then left I the meditations wherein I was, and spake to her in anger, saying,

6 Thou foolish woman above all other, seest thou not our mourning, and what happeneth unto us?

7 How that Sion our mother is full of all heaviness, and much humbled, mourning very sore?

8 And now seeing we all mourn and are sad, for we are all in heaviness, art thou grieved for one son?

9 For ask the earth, and she shall tell thee, that it is she which ought to mourn for the fall of so many that grow upon her.

10 For out of her came all at the first, and out of her shall all others come, and behold, they walk almost all into destruction, and a multitude of them is utterly rooted out.

11 Who then should make more mourning, than she that hath lost so great a multitude, and not thou which art sorry but for one?

12 But if thou sayest unto me, My lamentation is not like the earth's, because I have lost the fruit of my womb, which I brought forth with pains, and bare with sorrows;

13 But the earth *not so*: for the multitude present in it, according to the course of the earth, is gone, as it came.

14 Then say I unto thee, Like as thou hast brought forth with labour: even so the earth also hath given her fruit, namely man, ever since the beginning, unto him that made her.

15 Now therefore keep thy sorrow to thyself, and bear with a good courage that which hath befallen thee.

O.

16 For

### NOTES on Chap. X.

Ver. 1 *It so came to pass, &c.*] The beginning of this chapter belongs to the last, it being the conclusion of the woman's melancholy story.

2 *All my neighbours.*] Margin, Countrymen. Latin, Citizens.

6 *Thou foolish woman above all other, &c.*] The prophet

here sets before the eyes of the woman, the folly of her grief; because it is not permitted for the children of the dust to call in question the proceedings of the Almighty; on the contrary, it is their duty to submit to his determination, and consider all his decrees as just.

13 *But the earth is not so, &c.*] The margin reads, But the earth, after the manner of the earth, whereinto the present multitude is gone again as it came out.



16 For if thou shalt acknowledge the determination of God to be just, thou shalt both receive thy son in time, and shalt be commended amongst women.

17 Go thy way then into the city, to thine husband.

18 And she said unto me, That will I not do: I will not go into the city, but here will I die.

19 So I proceeded to speak further unto her, and said,

20 Do not so, but be counselled by me: for how many are the adversities of Sion? be comforted in regard of the sorrow of Jerusalem.

21 For thou seest that our sanctuary is laid waste, our altar broken down, our temple destroyed:

22 Our psaltery is laid on the ground, our song is put to silence, our rejoicing is at an end, the light of our candlestick is put out, the ark of our covenant is spoiled, our holy things are defiled, and the name that is called upon us, is almost profaned: our children are put to shame, our priests are burnt, our Levites are gone into captivity, our virgins are defiled, and our wives ravished, our righteous men carried away, our little ones destroyed, our young men are brought in bondage, and our strong men are become weak:

23 And, which is the greatest of all, the seal of Sion hath now lost her honour: for she is delivered into the hands of them that hate us.

24 And therefore shake off thy great heaviness, and put away the multitude of sorrows, that the Mighty may be merciful unto thee again, and the Highest shall give thee rest, and ease from thy labour.

25 And it came to pass while I was talking with her, behold, her face upon a sudden shined exceedingly, and her countenance glistered, so that I was afraid of her, and mused what it might be.

26 And behold, suddenly she made a great cry very fearful: so that the earth shook at the noise of the woman.

27 And I looked, and behold, the woman appeared unto me no more, but there was a city builded, and a large place shewed itself from the foundations: then was I afraid, and cried with a loud voice, and said,

28 Where is Uriel the angel, who came unto me at the first? for he hath caused me to fall into many trances, and mine end is turned into corruption, and my prayer to rebuke.

29 And as I was speaking these words, behold, he came unto me, and looked upon me.

30 And lo, I lay as one that had been dead, and mine understanding was taken from me: and he took me by the right hand, and comforted me, and set me upon my feet, and said unto me,

31 What aileth thee? and why art thou so disquieted? and why is thine understanding troubled, and the thoughts of thine heart?

32 And I said, because thou hast forsaken me, and yet I did according to thy words, and I went into the field, and lo, I have seen, and yet see that I am not able to express.

33 And he said unto me, Stand up manfully, and I will advise thee.

34 Then said I, Speak on, my lord, in me; only forsake me not, lest I die frustrate of my hope.

35 For

27 *The woman appeared unto me no more.*] The woman making a sudden and fearful cry, vanished, and an angel appeared, to the great astonishment of the prophet.

28 *Where is Uriel, &c.*] See chap. iv. 1.

*Into many trances.*] Margin reads, Into the multitude in a trance.

32 *I did according to thy words, &c.*] See chap. v. 20.

35 For I have seen that I knew not, and hear that I do not know.

36 Or is my sense deceived, or my soul in a dream?

37 Now therefore, I beseech thee, that thou wilt shew thy servant of this vision.

38 He answered me then, and said, Hear me, and I shall inform thee, and tell thee wherefore thou art afraid: for the Highest will reveal many secret things unto thee.

39 He hath seen that thy way is right; for that thou sorrowest continually for thy people, and makest great lamentation for Sion.

40 This therefore is the meaning of the vision which thou lately sawest.

41 Thou sawest a woman mourning, and thou beganst to comfort her:

42 But now seest thou the likeness of the woman no more, but there appeared unto thee a city builded.

43 And whereas she told thee of the death of her son, this is the solution:

44 This woman whom thou sawest, is Sion: and whereas she said unto thee (even she whom thou seest as a city builded)

45 Whereas, *I say*, she said unto thee, that she hath been thirty years barren: those are the thirty years wherein there was no offering made in her.

46 But after thirty years, Solomon builded the city, and offered offerings: and then bare the barren a son.

47 And whereas she told thee that she nourished him with labour: that was the dwelling in Jerusalem.

48 But whereas she said unto thee, That my son coming into his marriage-chamber,

happened to have a fall and died: this was the destruction that came to Jerusalem.

49 And behold, thou sawest her likeness, and because she mourned for her son, thou beganst to comfort her: and of these things which have chanced, these are to be opened unto thee.

50 For now the most High seeth that thou art grieved unfeignedly, and sufferest from thy whole heart for her, so hath he shewed thee the brightness of her glory, and the comeliness of her beauty:

51 And therefore I bade thee remain in the field where no house was builded.

52 For I new that the Highest would shew this unto thee.

53 Therefore I commanded thee to go into the field, where no foundation of any building was.

54 For in the place wherein the Highest beginneth to shew his city, there can no man's building be able to stand.

55 And therefore fear not, let not thine heart be affrighted, but go thy way in, and see the beauty and greatness of the building, as much as thine eyes be able to see.

56 And then shalt thou hear as much as thine ears may comprehend.

57 For thou art blessed above many other, and art called with the Highest, and so are but few.

58 But to-morrow at night thou shalt remain here,

59 And so shall the Highest shew thee visions of the high things which the most High will do unto them that dwell upon earth in the last days. So I slept that night and another, like as he commanded me.

## CHAP.

37 *This vision.*] Or, trance.

39 *Thy way.*] Or, purpose.

40 *This is the meaning of the vision, &c.*] The angel explains the meaning of the vision; the woman represented Sion; and the death of her son the destruction of Jerusalem.

43 *This is the solution.*] Or, interpretation.

57 *And art called with the Highest.*] Or, art called to be with the Highest.

59 *Visions of the high things.*] Or, last things.



## C H A P. XI.

1 *He seeth in his dream an eagle coming out of the sea, 37 and a lion out of a wood talking to the eagle.*

**T**HEN saw I a dream, and behold, there came up from the sea an eagle, which had twelve feathered wings, and three heads.

2 And I saw, and behold, she spread her wings over all the earth, and all the winds of the air blew on her, and were gathered together.

3 And I beheld, and out of her feathers there grew other contrary feathers; and they became little feathers and small.

4 But her heads were at rest: the head in the midst was greater than the other, yet rested it with the residue.

5 Moreover I beheld, and lo, the eagle flew with her feathers, and reigned upon earth, and over them that dwelt therein.

6 And I saw that all things under heaven were subject unto her, and no man spake against her, no not one creature upon earth.

7 And I beheld, and lo, the eagle rose upon her talons, and spake to her feathers, saying,

8 Watch not all at once: sleep every one in his own place, and watch by course.

9 But let the heads be preserved for the last.

10 And I beheld, and lo, the voice went not out of her heads, but from the midst of her body.

11 And I numbered her contrary feathers; and behold, there were eight of them.

12 And I looked, and behold, on the right side there arose one feather, and reigned over all the earth;

13 And so it was, that when it reigned, the end of it came, and the place thereof appeared no more: so the next following stood up, and reigned, and had a great time;

14 And it happened, that when it reigned, the end of it came also, like as the first, so that it appeared no more.

15 Then came there a voice unto it, and said,

16 Hear thou that hast borne rule over the earth so long: this I say unto thee, before thou beginnest to appear no more,

17 There shall none after thee attain unto thy time, neither unto the half thereof.

18 Then arose the third and reigned as the other before, and appeared no more also.

19 So went it with all the residue one after another, as that every one reigned, and then appeared no more.

20 Then I beheld, and lo, in process of time, the feathers that followed stood up upon the right side, that they might rule also, and some of them ruled; but within a while they appeared no more:

21 For some of them were set up, but ruled not.

22 After this I looked, and behold, the twelve feathers appeared no more, nor the two little feathers:

23 And there was no more upon the eagles body, but three heads that rested, and six little wings.

24 Then saw I also, that two little feathers divided themselves from the six, and remained under the head that was upon the right side: for the four continued in their place.

25 And I beheld, and lo, the feathers that

## NOTES ON Chap. XI.

Ver. 1 *Then saw I a dream, &c.*] Two nights, by the direction of the angel, the prophet had slept; and in the

mean time had two visions. In the first, he saw an eagle of an enormous size, coming out of the sea, whose feathers reigned in their course all over the earth.

4 *Yet rested it with the residue.*] Lat. Yet rested *ſhe*, &c.

that were under the wing, thought to set up themselves, and to have the rule.

26 And I beheld, and lo, there was one set up, but shortly it appeared no more.

27 And the second was sooner away than the first.

28 And I beheld, and lo, the two that remained thought also in themselves to reign :

29 And when they so thought, behold, there awaked one of the heads that were at rest, namely, it that was in the midst, for that was greater than the two other heads.

30 And then I saw that the two other heads were joined with it.

31 And behold, the head was turned with them that were with it, and did eat up the two feathers under the wing, that would have reigned.

32 But this head put the whole earth in fear, and bare rule in it over all those that dwelt upon the earth, with much oppression ; and it had the governance of the world, more than all the wings that had been.

33 And after this, I beheld, and lo, the head that was in the midst, suddenly appeared no more, like as the wings.

34 But there remained the two heads, which also in like sort ruled upon the earth, and over those that dwelt therein.

35 And I beheld, and lo, the head upon the right side, devoured it that was upon the left side.

36 Then I heard a voice, which said unto me, Look before thee, and consider the thing that thou seest.

37 And I beheld, and lo, as it were a roaring lion chased out of the wood : and

I saw that he sent out a man's voice unto the eagle, and said,

38 Hear thou, I will talk with thee, and the Highest shall say unto thee,

39 Art not thou it that remainest of the four beasts, whom I made to reign in my world, that the end of their times might come through them ?

40 And the fourth came, and overcame all the beasts that were past, and had power over the world with great fearfulness, and over the whole compass of the earth, with much wicked oppression, and so long time dwelt he upon the earth with deceit.

41 For the earth hast thou not judged with truth,

42 For thou hast afflicted the meek, thou hast hurt the peaceable, thou hast loved liars, and destroyed the dwellings of them that brought forth fruit, and hast cast down the walls of such as did thee no harm.

43 Therefore is thy wrongful dealing come up unto the Highest, and thy pride unto the Mighty.

44 The Highest also hath looked upon the proud times, and behold they are ended, and his abominations are fulfilled.

45 And therefore appear no more, thou eagle, nor thy horrible wings, nor thy wicked feathers, nor thy malicious heads, nor thy hurtful claws, nor all thy vain body :

46 That all the earth may be refreshed, and may return, being delivered from thy violence, and that she may hope for the judgment and mercy of him that made her.

P

C H A P.

37 *A roaring lion, &c.*] In the second vision the prophet saw a roaring lion coming out of a wood, and talking to the eagle in a human voice, forbidding the eagle to appear

any more, because God had decreed the earth should be freed from the violence of the eagle.



## C H A P. XII.

1 *The eagle which he saw is destroyed. 10 The vision is interpreted: 37 He is bid to write his visions, 39 and to fast, that he may see more: 46 He doth comfort those that were grieved for his absence.*

**A**ND it came to pass whiles the lion spake these words unto the eagle, I saw,

2 And behold, the head that remained, and the four wings appeared no more, and the two went unto it, and set themselves up to reign, and their kingdom was small and full of uproar.

3 And I saw, and behold, they appeared no more, and the whole body of the eagle was burnt, so that the earth was in great fear: then awaked I out of the trouble and trance of my mind, and from great fear, and said unto my spirit,

4 Lo, this hast thou done unto me, in that thou searchest out the ways of the Highest.

5 Lo, yet am I weary in my mind, and very weak in my spirit; and little strength is there in me, for the great fear wherewith I was affrighted this night.

6 Therefore will I now beseech the Highest, that he will comfort me unto the end.

7 And I said, Lord that bearest rule, If I have found grace before thy sight, and if I am justified with thee, before many others, and if my prayer indeed be come up before thy face;

8 Comfort me then, and shew me thy servant the interpretation, and plain difference of this fearful vision, that thou mayest perfectly comfort my soul.

9 For thou hast judged me worthy to shew me the last times.

10 And he said unto me, this is the interpretation of the vision:

11 The eagle whom thou sawest come up from the sea, is the kingdom which was seen in the vision of thy brother Daniel.

12 But it was not expounded unto him, therefore now I declare it unto thee.

13 Behold, the days will come, that there shall rise up a kingdom upon earth, and it shall be feared above all the kingdoms that were before it.

14 In the same shall twelve kings reign, one after another:

15 Whereof the second shall begin to reign, and shall have more time than any of the twelve.

16 And this do the twelve wings signify which thou sawest.

17 As for the voice which thou heardest speak, and that thou sawest not to go out from the heads, but from the mids of the body thereof, this is the interpretation:

18 That after the time of that kingdom, there shall arise great strivings, and it shall stand in peril of falling: nevertheless it shall not then fall, but shall be restored again to his beginning.

19 And whereas thou sawest the eight small under-feathers sticking to her wings, this is the interpretation:

20 That in him there shall arise eight kings, whose time shall be but small, and their years swift.

21 And two of them shall perish: the middle time approaching, four shall be kept until their end begin to approach: but two shall be kept unto the end.

22 And whereas thou sawest three heads resting, this the interpretation:

23 In his last days shall the most high raise up three kingdoms, and renew many things

## NOTES on Chap. XII.

Ver. 1 *While the lion spake, &c.]* Before the lion had done speaking, the eagle was consumed with fire, on

which the prophet came out of his vision, and with great heaviness of spirit, intreated God to shew him the interpretation of the vision.

11 *Which was seen in the vision, &c.]* See Dan. vii. 7.

things therein, and they shall have the dominion of the earth,

24 And of those that dwell therein, with much oppression, above all those that were before them: therefore are they called the heads of the eagle.

25 For these are they that shall accomplish his wickedness, and that shall finish his last end.

26 And whereas thou sawest that the great head appeared no more, it signifieth that one of them shall die upon his bed, and yet with pain.

27 For the two that remain, shall be slain with the sword.

28 For the sword of the one shall devour the other: but at the last shall he fall thro' the sword himself.

29 And whereas thou sawest two feathers under the wings passing over the head that is on the right side;

30 It signifieth that these are they whom the highest hath kept unto their end: this is the small kingdom, and full of trouble, as thou sawest.

31 And the lion whom thou sawest rising up out of the wood, and roaring, and speaking to the eagle, and rebuking her for her unrighteousness, with all the words which thou hast heard,

32 This is the anointed which the Highest hath kept for them, and for their wickedness unto the end: he shall reprove them, and shall upbraid them with their cruelty.

33 For he shall set them before him alive in judgment, and shall rebuke them and correct them.

34 For the rest of my people shall he deliver with mercy, those that have been preserved upon my borders, and he shall make them joyful until the coming of the day of judgment, whereof I have spoken unto thee from the beginning.

35 This is the dream that thou sawest, and these are the interpretations.

36 Thou only hast been meet to know this secret of the Highest.

37 Therefore write all these things that thou hast seen in a book, and hide them.

38 And teach them to the wise of the people, whose hearts thou knowest may comprehend and keep these secrets.

39 But wait thou here thyself yet seven days more, that it may be shewed thee whatsoever it pleaseth the Highest to declare unto thee. And with that he went his way.

40 And it came to pass, when all the people saw that the seven days were past, and I not come again into the city, they gathered them all together, from the least unto the greatest, and came unto me, and said,

41 What have we offended thee? and what evil have we done against thee, that thou forsakest us, and fittest here in this place?

42 For of all the prophets thou only art left us, as a cluster of the vintage, and as a candle in a dark place, and as a haven or ship preserved from the tempest.

43 Are not the evils which are come to us sufficient?

44 If thou shalt forsake us, how much better had it been for us, if we also had been burnt in the midst of Sion?

45 For

32 *This is the anointed, &c.*] Lat. Wind or spirit.

37 *Write all these things, &c.*] After the interpretation was finished, the prophet is commanded to commit his visions to writing, that he might communicate them to the heads of the people; he is also commanded to stay seven days, and fast, that he may see more visions.

40 *When all the people saw, &c.*] The people finding the prophet delayed to come among them, they repaired to him with one accord, weeping before him, as thinking God had forgotten them, and cast off for ever the remnant of his people.

42 *Of all the prophets.*] Or, people.



45 For we are not better than they that died there. And they wept with a loud voice. Then answered I them, and said,

46 Be of good comfort, O Israel, and be not heavy, thou house of Jacob:

47 For the Highest hath you in remembrance, and the Mighty hath not forgotten you in temptation.

48 As for me, I have not forsaken you, neither am I departed from you: but am come into this place, to pray for the desolation of Sion, and that I might seek mercy for the low estate of your sanctuary.

49 And now go your way home every man, and after these days will I come unto you.

50 So the people went their way into the city, like as I commanded them:

51 But I remained still in the field seven days, as the angel commanded me, and did eat only in those days of the flowers of the field, and had my meat of the herbs.

#### C H A P. XIII.

1 *He seeth in his dream a man coming out of the sea.* 25 *The declaration of his dream:*  
54 *He is praised, and promised to see more.*

**A**ND it came to pass after seven days, I dreamed a dream by night.

2 And lo, there arose a wind from the sea, that it moved all the waves thereof.

3 And I beheld, and lo, that man waxed strong with the thousands of heaven: and when he turned his countenance to look, all the things trembled that were seen under him.

4 And whensoever the voice went out

of his mouth, all they burnt that heard his voice, like as the earth faileth when it feel-eth the fire.

5 And after this I beheld, and lo, there was gathered together a multitude of men, out of number, from the four winds of the heaven, to subdue the man that came out of the sea.

6 But I beheld, and lo, he had graved himself a great mountain, and flew up upon it.

7 But I would have seen the region or place whereout the hill was graven, and I could not.

8 And after this I beheld, and lo, all they which were gathered together to subdue him, were fore afraid, and yet durst fight.

9 And lo, as he saw the violence of the multitude that came, he neither lift up his hand, nor held sword, nor any instrument of war.

10 But only I saw that he sent out of his mouth, as it had been a blast of fire, and out of his lips, a flaming breath, and out of his tongue he cast out sparks and tempests.

11 And they were all mixt together; the blast of fire, the flaming breath, and the great tempest; and fell with violence upon the multitude which was prepared to fight, and burnt them up every one, so that upon a sudden, of an innumerable multitude nothing was to be perceived, but only dust and smell of smoke: when I saw this I was afraid:

12 Afterward I saw the same man come down

46 *Be of good comfort, &c.*] The prophet assures the people, that their fears of being forsaken by God were vain, who still considers them as his people, and would protect his heritage, adding, that when he had done what he was commanded by a message from on high, he would return to them; upon which the people and he remained in the field seven days, living upon the spontaneous productions of nature.

#### NOTES on Chap. XIII.

Ver. 1 *I dreamed a dream by night.*] The prophet in a dream sees a man coming out of the sea, and relates many wonderful particulars about him, but is ignorant of the intent and meaning of it.

2 *There arose a wind.*] Margin, A certain man as the wind.

3 *With the thousands of heaven.*] Junius reads, With the clouds.

down from the mountain, and call unto him another peaceable multitude.

13 And there came much people unto him, whereof some were glad, some were sorry, some of them were bound, and other some brought of them that were offered: then was I sick through great fear, and I awaked, and said,

14 Thou hast shewed thy servant these wonders from the beginning, and hast counted me worthy that thou shouldest receive my prayer:

15 Shew me now yet the interpretation of this dream.

16 For as I conceive in mine understanding, wo unto them that shall be left in those days; and much more wo unto them that are not left behind.

17 For they that were not left were in heaviness.

18 Now understand I the things that are laid up in the latter days, which shall happen unto them, and to those that are left behind.

19 Therefore are they come into great perils, and many necessities, like as these dreams declare.

20 Yet is it easier for him that is in danger, to come into these things, than to pass away as a cloud out of the world, and not to see the things that happen in the last days. And he answered unto me, and said,

21 The interpretation of the vision shall I shew thee, and I will open unto thee the thing that thou hast required.

22 Whereas thou hast spoken of them that are left behind, this is the interpretation:

23 He that shall endure the peril in that time, hath kept himself: they that be fallen into danger are such as have works, and faith towards the Almighty.

24 Know this therefore, that they which be left behind, are more blessed than they

that be dead.

25 This is the meaning of the vision, Whereas thou sawest a man coming up from the midst of the sea:

26 The same is he whom God the Highest hath kept a great season, which by his own self shall deliver his creature: and he shall order them that are left behind.

27 And whereas thou sawest, that out of his mouth there came as a blast of wind, and fire, and storm;

28 And that he held neither sword, nor any instrument of war, but that the rushing in of him destroyed the whole multitude that came to subdue him; this is the interpretation:

29 Behold, the days come, when the most High will begin to deliver them that are upon the earth.

30 And he shall come to the astonishment of them that dwell on the earth.

31 And one shall undertake to fight against another, one city against another, one place against another, one people against another, and one realm against another.

32 And the time shall be when these things shall come to pass, and the signs shall happen which I shewed thee before, and then shall my Son be declared, whom thou sawest as a man ascending.

33 And when all the people hear his voice, every man shall in their own land leave the battle they have one against another.

34 And an innumerable multitude shall be gathered together, as thou sawest them willing to come, and to overcome him by fighting.

35 But he shall stand upon the top of the mount Sion.

36 And Sion shall come, and shall be shewed to all men, being prepared and builded like as thou sawest the hill graven without hands.

Q

37 And



37 And this my Son shall rebuke the wicked inventions of those nations, which for their wicked life are fallen into the tempest;

38 And shall lay before them their evil thoughts, and the torments wherewith they shall begin to be tormented, which are like unto a flame: and he shall destroy them without labour, by the law which is like unto fire.

39 And whereas thou sawest that he gathered another peaceable multitude unto him;

40 Those are the ten tribes which were carried away prisoners out of their own land, in the time of Osea the king, whom Salmanasar the king of Assyria led away captive, and he carried them over the waters, and so came they into another land.

41 But they took this counsel among themselves, that they would leave the multitude of the heathen, and go forth into a further country, where never mankind dwelt,

42 That they might there keep their statutes, which they never kept in their own land.

43 And they entered into Euphrates by the narrow passages of the river.

44 For the most High then shewed signs for them, and held still the flood; till they were passed over.

45 For through that country there was a great way to go: namely, of a year and a half: and the same region is called Arareth.

46 Then dwelt they there until the latter time; and now when they shall begin to come,

47 The Higheft shall stay the springs of

the stream again, that they may go through: therefore sawest thou the multitude with peace.

48 But those that be left behind of thy people, are they that are found within my borders.

49 Now when he destroyeth the multitude of the nations that are gathered together, he shall defend his people that remain.

50 And then shall he shew them great wonders.

51 Then said I, O Lord that bearest rule, shew me this: Wherefore have I seen the man coming up from the midst of the sea?

52 And he said unto me, Like as thou canst neither seek out nor know the things that are in the deep of the sea: even so can no man upon the earth see my Son, or those that be with him, but in the day-time.

53 This is the interpretation of the dream which thou sawest, and whereby thou only art here lightened.

54 For thou hast forsaken thine own way, and applied thy diligence unto my law, and fought it.

55 Thy life hast thou ordered in wisdom, and hast called understanding thy mother.

56 And therefore have I shewed thee the treasures of the Higheft: after other three days I will speak other things unto thee, and declare unto thee mighty and wonderous things.

57 Then went I forth into the field, giving praise and thanks greatly unto the most High, because of his wonders which he did in time,

58 And because he governeth the same, and

40 *Whom Salmanasar the king of Assyria, &c.*] See 2 Kings xvii. 3.

45 *Arareth.*] Or, Ararath.

54 *For thou hast forsaken thine own way, &c.*] As the

prophet had applied himself to the keeping of the law of the Lord, and took heed to walk stedfastly in his ways, God declares he was well pleased with him, and would shew him yet more wonderful things

and such things as fall in their seasons: and there I sat three days.

C H A P. XIV.

1 *A voice out of a bush calleth Esdras, 10 and telleth him that the world waxeth old: 22 He desireth, because the law was burnt, to write all again, 24 and is bid to get swift writers: 39 He and they are filled with understanding. 45 But he is charged not to publish all that is written.*

**A**ND it came to pass upon the third day, I sat under an oak, and behold, there came a voice out of a bush over against me, and said, Esdras, Esdras.

2 And I said, Here am I Lord: and I stood up upon my feet.

3 Then said he unto me, In the bush I did manifestly reveal myself unto Moses, and talked with him, when my people served in Egypt.

4 And I sent him, and led my people out of Egypt, and brought him up to the mount of Sinai, where I held him by me a long season,

5 And told him many wonderful things, and shewed him the secrets of the times, and the end: and commanded him, saying,

6 These words shalt thou declare, and these shalt thou hide.

7 And now I say unto thee,

8 That thou lay up in thy heart the signs that I have shewed, and the dreams that thou hast seen, and the interpretations which thou hast heard:

9 For thou shalt be taken away from all, and from henceforth thou shalt remain with my son, and with such as be like thee until the times be ended.

10 For the world hath lost his youth, and the times begin to wax old.

11 For the world is divided into twelve parts, and the ten parts of it are gone already, and half a tenth part:

12 And there remaineth that which is after the half of the tenth part.

13 Now therefore set thine house in order, and reprove thy people, comfort such of them as be in trouble, and now renounce corruption.

14 Let go from thee mortal thoughts, cast away the burdens of man, put off now the weak nature,

15 And set aside the thoughts that are most heavy unto thee, and haste thee to flee from these times.

16 For yet greater evils than those which thou hast seen happen, shall be done hereafter.

17 For look how much the world shall be weaker through age, so much the more, shall evils increase upon them that dwell therein.

18 For the truth is fled far away, and leasing is hard at hand: for now hasteth the vision to come which thou hast seen.

19 Then answered I before thee, and said,

20 Behold, Lord, I will go as thou hast commanded me, and reprove the people which are present: but they that shall be born afterward, who shall admonish them? thus the world is set in darkness, and they that dwell therein are without light.

21 For thy law is burnt, therefore no man knoweth the things that are done of thee, or the works that shall begin.

22 But if I have found grace before thee, send the Holy Ghost into me, and I shall write all that hath been done in the world since

NOTES on Chap. XIV.

Ver. 1 *There came a voice out of a bush over against me, &c.* Esdras, from a voice out of a bush, is informed, that the

world was greatly decayed, and should still continue to wax weaker and weaker, because truth was fled from the earth.

9 *With my son.* Or, counsel.

22 *Send the Holy Ghost into me, &c.* The prophet pre-



since the beginning, which were written in thy law, that men may find thy path, and that they which live in the latter days, may live.

23 And he answered me, saying, Go thy way; gather the people together, and say unto them, that they seek thee not for forty days.

24 But look thou prepare thee many box-trees, and take with thee Sarea, Dabria, Selemia, Ecanus, and Afel, these five which are ready to write swiftly.

25 And come hither, and I shall light a candle of understanding in thine heart, which shall not be put out, till the things be performed which thou shalt begin to write.

26 And when thou hast done, some things shalt thou publish, and some things shalt thou shew secretly to the wife: to morrow this hour shalt thou begin to write.

27 Then went I forth as he commanded, and gathered all the people together, and said,

28 Hear these words, O Israel.

29 Our fathers at the beginning were strangers in Egypt, from whence they were delivered:

30 And received the law of life which they kept not, which ye also have transgressed after them.

31 Then was the land, even the land of Sion parted among you by lot: but your fathers, and ye yourselves have done unrighteousness, and have not kept the ways which the Highest commanded you.

32 And forasmuch as he is a righteous judge, he took from you in time the thing that he had given you.

33 And now are you here, and your

brethren amongst you.

34 Therefore if so be that you will subdue your own understanding, and reform your hearts, ye shall be kept alive, and after death ye shall obtain mercy.

35 For after death shall the judgment come, when we shall live again: and then shall the names of the righteous be manifest, and the works of the ungodly shall be declared.

36 Let no man therefore come unto me now, nor seek after me these forty days.

37 So I took the five men as he commanded me, and we went into the field, and remained there.

38 And the next day, behold, a voice called me, saying, Esdras, open thy mouth and drink that I give thee to drink.

39 Then opened I my mouth, and behold, he reached me a full cup, which was full as it were with water, but the colour of it was like fire.

40 And I took it and drank: and when I had drunk of it, my heart uttered understanding, and wisdom grew in my breast, for my spirit strengthened my memory.

41 And my mouth was opened, and shut no more.

42 The Highest gave understanding unto the five men, and they wrote the wonderful visions of the night that were told, which they knew not: and they sat forty days, and they wrote in the day, and at night they ate bread.

43 As for me, I spake in the day, and I held not my tongue by night.

44 In forty days they wrote two hundred and four books.

45 And it came to pass when the forty days

sents his supplication to God, that he might, by divine inspiration, write the law; because the roll, which contained it, was burned with fire.

23 *Go thy way, &c.*] God hearkened to the voice of the prophet; and accordingly, writing tables, and five ready writers, were ordered to be procured; which being per-

formed, both Esdras and his companions are all filled with the spirit of understanding, and write the law.

24 *Box-trees.*] Margin, Box-tables to write on. See ver. 44.

*Ecanus.*] Or Banus.

44 *Two hundred.*] Margin, Nine hundred and four.

days were fulfilled, that the Highest spake, saying, The first that thou hast written, publish openly, that the worthy and unworthy may read it.

46 But keep the seventy last, that thou mayest deliver them only to such as be wise among the people.

47 For in them is the spring of understanding, the fountain of wisdom, and the stream of knowledge.

48 And I did so.

#### CHAP. XV.

1 *This prophecy is certain.* 5 *God will take vengeance upon the wicked,* 12 *upon Egypt.*

28 *An horrible vision.* 43 *Babylon and Asia are threatened.*

**B**EHOLD, speak thou in the ears of my people the words of prophecy, which I will put in thy mouth, saith the Lord.

2 And cause them to be written in paper: for they are faithful and true.

3 Fear not the imaginations against thee, let not the incredulity of them trouble thee, that speak against thee.

4 For all the unfaithful shall die in their unfaithfulness.

5 Behold, saith the Lord, I will bring plagues upon the world; the sword, famine, death and destruction.

6 For wickedness hath exceedingly polluted the whole earth, and their hurtful works are fulfilled.

7 Therefore saith the Lord,

8 I will hold my tongue no more as touching their wickedness, which they profanely cominit, neither will I suffer them in those things, in which they wickedly ex-

ercise themselves: behold, the innocent and righteous blood crieth unto me, and the souls of the just complain continually.

9 And therefore, saith the Lord, I will surely avenge them, and receive unto me all the innocent blood from among them.

10 Behold, my people is led as a flock to the slaughter: I will not suffer them now to dwell in the land of Egypt.

11 But I will bring them with a mighty hand, and a stretched out arm, and smite Egypt with plagues as before, and will destroy all the land thereof.

12 Egypt shall mourn, and the foundation of it shall be smitten with the plague and punishment that God shall bring upon it.

13 They that till the ground shall mourn: for their seeds shall fail, through the blasting, and hail, and with a fearful constellation.

14 Wo to the world, and them that dwell therein.

15 For the sword and their destruction draweth nigh, and one people shall stand up to fight against another, and swords in their hands.

16 For there shall be sedition among men, and invading one another; they shall not regard their kings nor princes, and the course of their actions shall stand in their power.

17 A man shall desire to go into a city, and shall not be able.

18 For because of their pride the cities shall be troubled, the houses shall be destroyed, and men shall be afraid.

19 A man shall have no pity upon his

R

neigh-

47 *And the stream of knowledge.*] Margin, The light of knowledge.

#### NOTES on Chap. XV.

Ver. 1 *Speak thou in the ears of my people, &c.*] Esdras is

commanded by God to denounce the most heavy judgments upon the wicked, particularly the Egyptians, whose land was devoted to destruction, because of their unaccountable pride; and to shew that the event should be conformable to the prophecy, he is ordered to record it in writing.



neighbour, but shall destroy their houses with the sword, and spoil their goods because of the lack of bread, and for great tribulation.

20 Behold, saith God, I will call together all the kings of the earth to reverence me, which are from the rising of the sun, from the south, from the east, and Libanus: to turn themselves one against another, and repay the things that they have done to them.

21 Like as they do yet this day unto my chosen, so will I do also, and recompense in their bosom. Thus saith the Lord God,

22 My right hand shall not spare the sinners, and my sword shall not cease over them that shed innocent blood upon the earth.

23 The fire is gone forth from his wrath, and hath consumed the foundations of the earth, and the sinners like the straw that is kindled.

24 Wo to them that sin and keep not my commandments, saith the Lord:

25 I will not spare them: go your way, ye children, from the power, defile not my sanctuary.

26 For the Lord knoweth all them that sin against him, and therefore delivereth he them unto death and destruction.

27 For now are the plagues come upon the whole earth, and ye shall remain in them: for God shall not deliver you, because ye have sinned against him.

28 Behold, an horrible vision, and the appearance thereof from the east:

29 Where the nations of the dragons of Arabia shall come out with many chariots,

and the multitude of them shall be carried as the wind upon earth, that all they which hear them may fear and tremble.

30 Also the Carmanians raging in wrath shall go forth as the wild boars of the wood, and with great power shall they come, and join battle with them, and shall waste a portion of the land of the Assyrians.

31 And then shall the dragons have the upper hand, remembering their nature; and if they shall turn themselves, conspiring together in great power to persecute them,

32 Then these shall be troubled, and keep silence through their power, and shall flee.

33 And from the land of the Assyrians shall the enemy besiege them, and consume some of them, and in their host shall be fear and dread, and strife among their kings.

34 Behold clouds from the east, and from the north, unto the south, and they are very horrible to look upon, full of wrath and storm.

35 They shall smite one upon another, and they shall smite down a great multitude of stars upon the earth, even their own star; and blood shall be from the sword unto the belly,

36 And dung of men unto the camels' hough.

37 And there shall be great fearfulness and trembling upon earth: and they that see the wrath shall be afraid, and trembling shall come upon them.

38 And then shall there come great storms from the south, and from the north, and another part from the west.

39 And strong winds shall arise from the east,

28 *An horrible vision, &c.*] The prophet sees in a frightful vision the destruction of many nations, which shall make the earth tremble, and the foundations thereof shake; for the cities, walls, mountains, hills, trees, grass, and corn,

were all to be destroyed.

33 *Among their kings.*] Or against.

36 *Unto the camel's hough.*] Or palfrey, or litter.

east, and shall open it, and the cloud which he raised up in wrath, and the star stirred to cause fear toward the east and west wind, shall be destroyed.

40 The great and mighty clouds shall be lifted up full of wrath, and the star, that they may make all the earth afraid, and them that dwell therein: and they shall pour out over every high and eminent place, an horrible star.

41 Fire, and hail, and flying swords, and many waters, that all fields may be full, and all rivers with the abundance of great waters.

42 And they shall break down the cities, and walls, mountains and hills, trees of the wood, and grafs of the meadows, and their corn.

43 And they shall go stedfastly unto Babylon, and make her afraid.

44 They shall come to her, and besiege her, the star and all wrath shall they pour out upon her, then shall the dust and smoke go up unto the heaven, and all they that be about her shall bewail her.

45 And they that remain under her shall do service unto them that have put her in fear.

46 And thou Asia, that art partaker of the hope of Babylon, and art the glory of her person:

47 Wo be unto thee, thou wretch, because thou hast made thyself like unto her: and hast decked thy daughters in whoredom, that they might please and glory in thy lovers, which have always desired to commit whoredom with thee.

48 Thou hast followed her that is hated in all her works and inventions: therefore saith God,

49 I will send plagues upon thee; widowhood, poverty, famine, sword, and pestilence, to waste thy houses with destruction and death.

50 And the glory of thy power shall be dried up as a flower, when the heat shall arise that is sent over thee.

51 Thou shalt be weakened as a poor woman with stripes, and as one chastised with wounds, so that the mighty and lovers shall not be able to receive thee.

52 Would I with jealousy have so proceeded against thee, saith the Lord,

53 If thou hadst not always slain my chosen, exalting the stroke of thine hands, and saying over their dead, when thou wast drunken,

54 Set forth the beauty of thy countenance?

55 The reward of thy whoredom shall be in thy bosom, therefore shalt thou receive recompence.

56 Like as thou hast done unto my chosen, saith the Lord, even so shall God do unto thee, and shall deliver thee into mischief.

57 Thy children shall die of hunger, and thou shalt fall through the sword: thy cities shall be broken down, and all thine shall perish with the sword in the field.

58 They that be in the mountains shall die of hunger, and eat their own flesh, and drink their own blood, for very hunger of bread, and thirst of water.

59 Thou as unhappy shalt come through the sea, and receive plagues again.

60 And in the passage they shall rush on the idle city, and shall destroy some portion of thy land, and consume part of thy glory, and shall return to Babylon that was destroyed.

61 And

43 *They shall go stedfastly unto Babylon, &c.*] Babylon and Asia, for their whoredoms and idolatrous inventions, are next threatened with poverty, famine, sword, and pestilence, destruction, and death: their children were to

be carried into captivity, and their land totally laid waste.

46 *That art partaker of the hope of Babylon.*] Margin, Or like unto Babylon.



61 And thou shalt be cast down by them, as stubble, and they shall be unto thee as fire :

62 And shall consume thee and thy cities, thy land, and thy mountains ; all thy woods and thy fruitful trees shall they burn up with fire.

63 Thy children shall they carry away captive, and look what thou hast, they shall spoil it, and mar the beauty of thy face.

#### C H A P. XVI.

1 *Babylon and other places are threatened with plagues that cannot be avoided, 23 and with desolation. 40 The servants of the Lord must look for troubles : 51 and not hide their sins, 74 but leave them, and they shall be delivered.*

**W**O be unto thee, Babylon and Asia :  
wo be unto thee, Egypt and Syria.

2 Gird up yourselves with clothes of sack and hair, bewail your children and be sorry ; for your destruction is at hand.

3 A sword is sent upon you, and who may turn it back ?

4 A fire is sent among you, and who may quench it ?

5 Plagues are sent unto you, and what is he that may drive them away ?

6 May any man drive away an hungry lion in the wood ? or may any one quench the fire in stubble, when it hath begun to burn ?

7 May one turn again the arrow that is shot of a strong archer ?

8 The mighty Lord sendeth the plagues, and who is he that can drive them away ?

9 A fire shall go forth from his wrath, and who is he that may quench it ?

10 He shall cast lightnings, and who shall not fear ? he shall thunder, and who

shall not be afraid ?

11 The Lord shall threaten, and who shall not be utterly beaten to powder at his presence ?

12 The earth quaketh, and the foundations thereof, the sea riseth up with waves from the deep, and the waves of it are troubled, and the fishes thereof also before the Lord, and before the glory of his power.

13 For strong is his right hand that bendeth the bow, his arrows that he shooteth are sharp, and shall not miss when they begin to be shot into the ends of the world.

14 Behold, the plagues are sent, and shall not return again, until they come upon the earth.

15 The fire is kindled, and shall not be put out, till it consume the foundation of the earth.

16 Like as an arrow which is shot of a mighty archer, returneth not backward : even so the plagues that shall be sent upon earth shall not return again.

17 Wo is me, wo is me, who will deliver me in those days ?

18 The beginning of sorrows and great mournings ; the beginning of famine, and great death ; the beginning of wars, and the powers shall stand in fear ; the beginning of evils ; what shall I do when these evils shall come ?

19 Behold, famine and plague, tribulation and anguish are sent as scourges for amendment.

20 But for all these things they shall not turn from their wickedness, nor be alway mindful of thy scourges.

21 Behold, victuals shall be so good cheap upon earth, that they shall think themselves to be in good case, and even then shall

#### NOTES on Chap. XVI.

Ver. 1 *Wo be unto thee, Babylon and Asia, &c.* God threatens to send grievous plagues upon Babylon, and the

neighbouring nations ; declares the fury of his wrath shall consume them like a burning fire ; and that famine, plagues, anguish, grief, and desolation, shall be his scourges.

shall evils grow upon earth, sword, famine, and great confusion.

22 For many of them that dwell upon earth, shall perish of famine; and the other that escape the hunger, shall the sword destroy.

23 And the dead shall be cast out as dung, and there shall be no man to comfort them: for the earth shall be wasted, and the cities shall be cast down.

24 There shall be no man left to till the earth, and to sow it.

25 The trees shall give fruit, and who shall gather them?

26 The grapes shall ripen, and who shall tread them? for all places shall be desolate of men:

27 So that one man shall desire to see another, and to hear his voice.

28 For of a city there shall be ten left, and two of the field, which shall hide themselves in the thick groves, and in the clefts of the rocks.

29 As in an orchard of olives, upon every tree there are left three or four olives;

30 Or as when a vineyard is gathered, there are left some clusters of them that diligently seek through the vineyard:

31 Even so in those days there shall be three or four left by them that search their houses with the sword.

32 And the earth shall be laid waste, and the fields thereof shall wax old, and her ways and all her paths shall grow full of thorns, because no man shall travel there through.

33 The virgins shall mourn, having no bridegrooms; the women shall mourn, having no husbands; their daughters shall

mourn, having no helpers.

34 In the wars shall their bridegrooms be destroyed, and their husbands shall perish of famine.

35 Hear now these things, and understand them, ye servants of the Lord.

36 Behold the word of the Lord, receive it: believe not the gods of whom the Lord spake.

37 Behold, the plagues draw nigh, and are not slack.

38 As when a woman with child, in the ninth month bringeth forth her son, within two or three hours of her birth great pains compass her womb, which pains, when the child cometh forth, they slack not a moment:

39 Even so shall not the plagues be slack to come upon the earth, and the world shall mourn, and sorrow shall come upon it on every side.

40 O my people, hear my word: make you ready to the battle, and in those evils, be even as pilgrims upon the earth.

41 He that selleth, let him be as he that fleeth away: and he that buyeth, as one that will lose:

42 He that occupieth merchandise, as he that had no profit by it: and he that buildeth, as he that shall not dwell therein:

43 He that soweth, as if he should not reap: so also he that planteth the vineyard, as he that shall not gather the grapes:

44 They that marry, as they that shall get no children; and they that marry not, as the widowers.

45 And therefore they that labour, labour in vain.

S

46 For

21 *Evils.*] Or, Plagues.

40 *O my people, hear my word, &c.*] The true worshippers of the most High, being only pilgrims in this vale of tears and misery, must expect to go through troubles and afflictions; no man is without sin; no man should therefore endeavour to conceal it, but by a confession of his faults to

the Almighty, and a sincere repentance, endeavour to leave his sins; and then he may be assured, that God will deliver him from all his afflictions, and at the same time certainly punish the obdurate wretch, the obstinate, unrepenting sinner.



46 For strangers shall reap their fruits, and spoil their goods, overthrow their houses, and take their children captives, for in captivity and famine shall they get children.

47 And they that occupy their merchandise with robbery, the more they deck their cities, their houses, their possessions, and their own persons :

48 The more will I be angry with them for their sin, saith the Lord.

49 Like as an whore envieth a right honest and virtuous woman :

50 So shall righteousness hate iniquity, when she decketh herself, and shall accuse her to her face, when he cometh that shall defend him that diligently searcheth out every sin upon earth.

51 And therefore be ye not like thereunto, nor to the works thereof.

52 For yet a little, and iniquity shall be taken away out of the earth, and righteousness shall reign among you.

53 Let not the sinner say that he hath not sinned : for God shall burn coals of fire upon his head, which saith before the Lord God and his glory, I have not sinned.

54 Behold, the Lord knoweth all the works of men, their imaginations, their thoughts, and their hearts.

55 Which spake but the word, Let the earth be made, and it was made : Let the heaven be made, and it was created.

56 In his word were the stars made, and he knoweth the number of them.

57 He searcheth the deep, and the treasures thereof : he hath measured the sea, and what it containeth.

58 He hath shut the sea in the midst of the waters, and with his word hath he hanged the earth upon the waters.

59 He spreadeth out the heavens like a vault, upon the waters hath he founded it.

60 In the desert hath he made springs of water, and pools upon the tops of the mountains, that the floods might pour down from the high rocks, to water the earth.

61 He made man, and put his heart in the midst of the body, and gave him breath, life, and understanding.

62 Yea, and the Spirit of Almighty God, which made all things, and searcheth out all hidden things in the secrets of the earth.

63 Surely he knoweth your inventions, and what you think in your hearts, even them that sin, and would hide their sin.

64 Therefore hath the Lord exactly searched out all your works, and he will put you all to shame.

65 And when your sins are brought forth, ye shall be ashamed before men, and your own sins shall be your accusers in that day.

66 What will ye do? or how will you hide your sins before God and his angels?

67 Behold, God himself is the judge, fear him : leave off from your sins, and forget your iniquities, to meddle no more with them for ever ; so shall God lead you forth, and deliver you from all trouble.

68 For behold, the burning wrath of a great multitude is kindled over you, and they shall take away certain of you, and feed you, being idle with things offered unto idols.

69 And they that consent unto them shall be had in derision, and in reproach, and trodden under foot.

70 For there shall be in every place, and in the next cities, a great insurrection upon those that fear the Lord.

71 They

46 *In captivity.*] Or, For captivity.

68 *You being idle with things offered unto idols.*] Margin, Being unable to resist.

71 They shall be like mad-men, sparing none, but still spoiling and destroying those that fear the Lord.

72 For they shall waste and take away their goods, and cast them out of their houses.

73 Then shall they be known who are my chosen, and they shall be tried as the gold in the fire.

74 Hear, O ye my beloved, faith the Lord: behold, the days of trouble are at hand, but I will deliver you from the same.

75 Be ye not afraid, neither doubt, for

God is your guide.

76 And the guide of them who keep my commandments, and precepts, faith the Lord God: let not your sins weigh you down, and let not your iniquities lift up themselves.

77 Wo be unto them that are bound with their sins, and covered with their iniquities: like as a field is covered over with bushes, and the path thereof covered with thorns, that no man may travel through.

78 It is left undressed, and is cast into the fire to be consumed therewith.

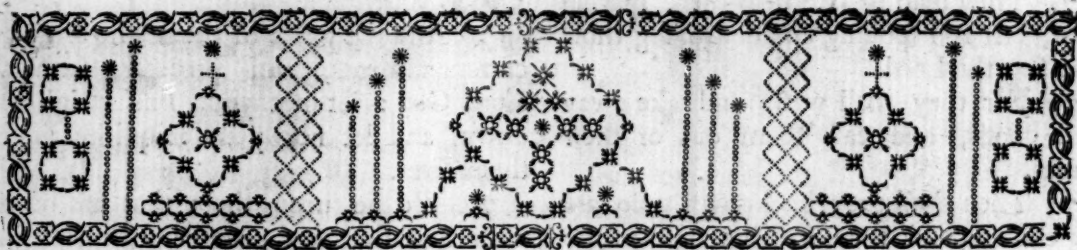
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78 *It is left undressed.*] Margin, Or shut out.

The End of the Second Book of ESDRAS.

J MA 56





# T O B I T.

## THE ARGUMENT.

*The Book of Tobit was never esteemed as canonical, except by a decree of the council of Trent; the Jews never received it in their canon, and therefore it was not admitted into that of the ancient Christians. The former part of the book is supposed to have been written by Tobit, in Chaldee, and the latter by his son: at least, it is presumed they left behind them some memoirs of their family, which some later author might digest into proper order. Fagius pretends that the book of Tobit is not a true history, but a pious fiction only, wherein, under borrowed names, the character of a father and a son, truly pious, are delineated; and our learned Prideaux seems to go farther, when he tells us, "That there are some matters in it which are not so reconcilable to a rational credibility, which look indeed more like the fictions of Homer, than the writings of a sacred historian; and gives such an objection against the book, as does not lie against any other." However, he confesses, "That it is of great use to represent to us the duties of charity and patience, in the example of Tobit's ready helping his brethren in their distress to the utmost of his power, and his bearing with a pious submission the calamities of his captivity, poverty, and blindness, as long as they were inflicted on him."*

### CHAP. I.

1 Tobit his stock and devotion in his youth: 9 his marriage, 10 and captivity: 13 His preferment, 16 alms, and charity in burying the dead: 19 for which he is accused, and sleeth, 22 and after returneth to Nineve.

THE book of the words of Tobit, son of Tobiel, the son of Ananiel, the son of Aduel, the son of Gabael, of the seed of Asael, of the tribe of Nephthali,

2 Who in the time of Enemessar king

of the Assyrians, was led captive out of Thisbe, which is at the right hand of that city, which is called properly Nephthali in Galilee above Aser.

3 I Tobit have walked all the days of my life in the way of truth and justice, and I did many alms-deeds to my brethren, and my nation who came with me to Nineve, into the land of the Assyrians.

4 And when I was in mine own country, in the land of Israel, being but young, all the tribe of Nephthali my father, fell from the house of Jerusalem, which was chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, that all the tribes should sacrifice *there*, where the temple of the habitation of the most High was consecrated and built for all ages.

5 Now all the tribes which together revolted, and the house of my father Nephthali sacrificed unto the heifer Baal.

6 But I alone went often to Jerusalem at the feasts, as it was ordained unto all the people of Israel by an everlasting decree, having the first-fruits, and tenths of increase, with that which was first shorn; and them gave I at the altar, to the priests the children of Aaron.

7 The first tenth part of all increase, I gave to the sons of Aaron, who ministered at Jerusalem: another tenth part I sold away, and went, and spent it every year at Jerusalem:

8 And the third I gave unto them to whom it was meet, as Debora my father's mother had commanded me, because I was left an orphan by my father.

9 Furthermore, when I was come to the age of a man, I married Anna of mine own kindred, and of her I begat Tobias.

10 And when we were carried away captives to Nineve, all my brethren and those that were of my kindred did eat of the bread of the Gentiles.

11 But I kept myself from eating.

12 Because I remembered God with all my heart.

13 And the most High gave me grace and favour before Enemessar, so that I was his purveyor.

14 And I went into Media, and left in trust with Gabael, the brother of Gabrias at Rages a city of Media, ten talents of silver.

15 Now when Enemessar was dead, Sennacherib his son reigned in his stead, whose estate was troubled, that I could not go into Media.

16 And in the time of Enemessar, I gave many alms to my brethren, and gave my bread to the hungry,

17 And my clothes to the naked: and if I saw any of my nation dead, or cast about the walls of Nineve, I buried him.

18 And if the king Sennacherib had slain

T

slain

### NOTES ON Chap. I.

Ver. 1 *The book of the words of Tobit, &c.*] Or, of the *acts* of Tobit. Tobit in this chapter gives an account of his family and tribe, and adds, that he had continued all the days of his life to walk in the ways of truth and justice, and to shew all the kindness in his power for the children of his people who groaned under the weighty hand of affliction.

2 *Enemessar.*] Or, Shalmanezar.

*Nephthali in Galilee above Aser.*] Or, Kedesh of Nephthali in Galilee. Judg. iv. 6.

5 *Unto the heifer Baal.*] Or, to the power of Baal, or the God Baal.

6 *I alone went often to Jerusalem, &c.*] Tobit, in the midst of a degenerate people, still maintained his integrity, and worshipped the God of his fathers, in the place which he had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel to put his name there.

7 *The sons of Aaron.*] Or, Levi.

13 *I was his purveyor.*] Or, buyer.

14 *At Rages a city of Media.*] Or, in the land or country of Media. Rages was situated among the mountains that separate Media from Parthia, and about a sabbath day's journey from Ecbatane.

15 *Whose estate was troubled.*] Greek, The ways of whom were unsettled.

17 *Or cast about the walls.*] Or, behind the walls.



slain any, when he was come, and fled from Judea, I buried them privily (for in his wrath he killed many) but the bodies were not found, when they were sought for of the king.

19 And when one of the Ninevites went and complained of me to the king, that I buried them, and hid myself; understanding that I was sought for to be put to death, I withdrew myself for fear.

20 Then all my goods were forcibly taken away, neither was there any thing left me, besides my wife Anna, and my son Tobias.

21 And there passed not five and fifty days, before two of his sons killed him, and they fled into the mountains of Ararath, and Sarchedonus his son reigned in his stead; who appointed over his father's accounts, and over all his affairs, Achiacharus my brother Anael's son.

22 And Achiacharus intreating for me, I returned to Nineve: now Achiacharus was cup-bearer, and keeper of the signet and steward, and overseer of the accounts: and Sarchedonus appointed him next unto him: and he was my brother's son.

#### CHAP. II.

1 *Tobit leaveth his meat to bury the dead, 10 and becometh blind: 11 His wife taketh in work to get her living: 14 Her husband and she fall out about a kid.*

**N**OW when I was come home again, and my wife Anna was restored unto me, with my son Tobias, in the feast of

Pentecost, which is the holy feast of the seven weeks, there was a good dinner prepared me, in the which I sat down to eat.

2 And when I saw abundance of meat, I said to my son, Go, and bring what poor man soever thou shalt find out of our brethren, who is mindful of the Lord: and lo, I tarry for thee.

3 But he came again, and said, Father, one of our nation is strangled, and is cast out in the market-place.

4 Then before I had tasted of any meat, I start up, and took him up into a room, until the going down of the sun.

5 Then I returned, and washed myself, and ate my meat in heaviness,

6 Remembering that prophecy of Amos, as he said, Your feasts shall be turned into mourning, and all your mirth into lamentation.

7 Therefore I wept; and after the going down of the sun, I went and made a grave, and buried him.

8 But my neighbours mocked me, and said, This man is not yet afraid to be put to death for this matter: who fled away; and yet lo, he burieth the dead again.

9 The same night also I returned from the burial, and slept by the wall of my court-yard, being polluted, and my face was uncovered:

10 And I knew not that there was sparrows in the wall, and mine eyes being open, the sparrows muted warm dung into mine eyes, and a whiteness came in my but

21 *Sarchedonus.*] Or, Esarhaddon.

#### NOTES on Chap. II.

Ver. 4 *Before I had tasted any meat, &c.*] We have here a very remarkable instance of humanity. Tobit, on hearing that an Israelite was slain, would not taste any meat till he had taken up the body, and conveyed it to his chamber, in order to bury it during the darkness of the night. He well knew what he had to expect from the king of Nineveh, should he be informed of this transaction: but danger could not deter him from performing an act of

charity, and he rather chose to expose himself to the resentment of an incensed monarch, than suffer the dead body of one of his brethren to remain exposed in the streets.

6 *Your feasts shall be turned into mourning, &c.*] See Amos viii. 10. Tobit here applies the words of Amos to the afflictions of the seed of Jacob; and acknowledges that they suffered no more than what their sins had merited.

8 *Who fled away.*] See chap. i. 19.

10 *Sparrows.*] The margin reads, swallows.

eyes, and I went to the physicians, but they helped me not : moreover Achiacharus did nourish me, until I went into Elymais.

11 And my wife Anna did take women's works to do.

12 And when she had sent them home to the owners, they paid her wages, and gave her also besides a kid.

13 And when it was in my house, and began to cry, I said unto her, From whence is this kid? is it not stolen? render it to the owners, for it is not lawful to eat any thing that is stolen.

14 But she replied upon me, It was given for a gift more than the wages : howbeit I did not believe her, but bade her render it to the owners : and I was abashed at her. But she replied upon me, Where are thine alms, and thy righteous deeds? behold, thou and all thy works are known.

#### C H A P. III.

1 *Tobit grieved with his wife's taunts prayeth.* 11 *Sara reproached by her father's maids, prayeth also.* 17 *An angel is sent to help them both.*

**T**HEN I being grieved did weep, and in my sorrow prayed, saying,

2 O Lord, thou art just and all thy works, and all thy ways are mercy and truth, and thou judgest truly and justly for ever.

3 Remember me, and look on me, punish me not for my sins and ignorances, and *the sins of* my fathers, who have sinned before thee :

4 For they obeyed not thy commandments ; wherefore thou hast delivered us for a spoil, and unto captivity, and unto death, and for a proverb of reproach to all the nations among whom we are dispersed.

5 And now thy judgements are many and true : deal with me according to my sins, and my fathers : because we have not kept thy commandments, neither have walked in truth before thee.

6 Now therefore deal with me as seemeth best unto thee, and command my spirit to be taken from me, that I may be dissolved, and become earth : for it is profitable for me to die rather than to live, because I have heard false reproaches, and have much sorrow : command therefore that I may now be delivered out of this distress, and go into the everlasting place : turn not thy face away from me.

7 It came to pass the same day, that in Ecbatane a city of Media, Sara the daughter of Raguel was also reproached by her father's maids ;

8 Because that she had been married to seven husbands, whom Asmodeus the evil spirit had killed, before they had lien with her.

*A whitenss came in my eyes.]* Or, white films.

11 *My wife Anna did take women's work to do.]* Margin, Was hired to spin in the women's rooms.

12 *And when she had sent them.]* i. e. Her work.

14 *Behold, thou and all thy works are known.]* Margin reads, Lo, all things are known to thee.

#### NOTES on Chap. III.

Ver. 6 *That I may be dissolved.]* Or dismissed, or delivered.

7 *In Ecbatane, a city of Media.]* Herodotus says expressly, that the city of Ecbatane was built by Dejoces, the first king of the Medes. It was situated on a spacious eminence, and into it Dejoces had brought together the whole nation of the Medes, who ever before had lived in caves and huts, dispersed up and down the country ; and this great concourse of people rendered it very large and

populous. It was encompassed with seven walls, at equal distances from each other. The first was the lowest, and equal in circumference with the walls of Athens, that is, according to Thucydides, an hundred and seventy-eight furlongs. The rest rose gradually, and overlooked each other, about the height of a battlement. These walls made a very elegant appearance from their battlements being of different colours. The first were white, the second black, the third of a purple colour, the fourth blue, the fifth of a deep orange, the sixth of a silver, and the seventh of a gold colour. The royal palace and treasury stood within the seventh wall ; and the former alone, according to Polybius, were seven furlongs in circumference, and built with all the cost and skill requisite in a stately fabric ; for some of its beams were said to have been of silver, and the rest of cedar strengthened with gold.



her. Dost thou not know, said they, that thou hast strangled thine husbands? thou hast had already seven husbands, neither wast thou named after any of them.

9 Wherefore dost thou beat us for them? If they be dead, go thy ways after them, let us never see of thee either son or daughter.

10 When she heard these things, she was very sorrowful, so that she thought to have strangled herself; and she said, I am the only daughter of my father, and if I do this, it shall be a reproach unto him, and I shall bring his old age with sorrow unto the grave.

11 Then she prayed toward the window, and said, Blessed art thou, O Lord my God, and thine holy and glorious name is blessed and honourable for ever: let all thy works praise thee for ever.

12 And now, O Lord, I set mine eyes and my face toward thee,

13 And say, Take me out of the earth, that I may hear no more the reproach.

14 Thou knowest, Lord, that I am pure from all sin with man,

15 And that I never polluted my name, nor the name of my father in the land of my captivity: I am the only daughter of my father, neither hath he any child to be his heir, neither any near kinsman, nor any son of his alive, to whom I may keep myself for a wife: my seven husbands are already dead, and why should I live? but if it please not thee that I should die, command some regard to be had of me,

and pity taken of me, that I hear no more reproach.

16 So the prayers of them both were heard before the majesty of the great God.

17 And Raphael was sent to heal them both, that is, to scale away the whiteness of Tobit's eyes, and to give Sara the daughter of Raguel, for a wife to Tobias the son of Tobit; and to bind Asmodeus the evil spirit, because she belonged to Tobias by right of inheritance. The self-same time came Tobit home, and entered into his house, and Sara the daughter of Raguel came down from her upper chamber.

#### C H A P. IV.

3 *Tobit giveth instructions to his son Tobias, and telleth him of money left with Gabael in Media.*

**I**N that day Tobit remembered the money, which he had committed to Gabael in Rages of Media,

2 And said with himself, I have wished for death; wherefore do not I call for my son Tobias, that I may signify to him *of the money* before I die?

3 And when he had called him, he said, My son, when I am dead, bury me, and despise not thy mother, but honour her all the days of thy life, and do that which shall please her, and grieve her not.

4 Remember, my son, that she saw many dangers for thee, *when thou wast* in her womb: and when she is dead, bury her by me in one grave.

5 My son, be mindful of the Lord our God all thy days, and let not thy will be set

8 *Asmodeus.*] This word is probably derived from a Hebrew word, which signifies *to exterminate*; so that nothing more is meant by *Asmodeus*, than the destroying or exterminating angel.

15 *Neither any near kinsman.*] Or, brother.

#### NOTES on Chap. IV.

Ver. 1 *In that day Tobit remembered the money, &c.*] See chap. i. 14.

3 *When I am dead bury me, and despise not thy mother, &c.*] These instructions of Tobit to his son should be read with attention, and imprinted on the memory of every youth; for they contain directions that cannot fail of conducting him through the world with safety and applause. They will teach him the duties he owes to his parents and fellow mortals, and direct him to observe the precepts of religion, and obey the commands of the most High.

set to sin, or to transgress his commandments: do uprightly all thy life long, and follow not the ways of unrighteousness.

6 For if thou deal truly, thy doings shall prosperously succeed to thee, and to all them that live justly.

7 Give alms of thy substance: and when thou givest alms, let not thine eye be envious, neither turn thy face from any poor, and the face of God shall not be turned away from thee.

8 If thou hast abundance, give alms accordingly; if thou have but a little, be not afraid to give according to that little.

9 For thou layest up a good treasure for thyself against the day of necessity.

10 Because that alms do deliver from death, and suffereth not to come into darkness.

11 For alms is a good gift unto all that give it, in the sight of the most High.

12 Beware of all whoredom, my son, and chiefly take a wife of the seed of thy fathers, and take not a strange woman to wife, which is not of thy father's tribe: for we are the children of the prophets, Noe, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: remember, my son, that our fathers from the beginning, even that they all married wives of their own kindred, and were blessed in their children, and their seed shall inherit the land.

13 Now therefore, my son, love thy brethren, and despise not in thy heart thy brethren, the sons and daughters of thy people, in not taking a wife of them: for in pride is destruction and much trouble, and in lewdness is decay, and great want: for lewdness is the mother of famine.

14 Let not the wages of any man which

hath wrought for thee, tarry with thee, but give him it out of hand: for if thou serve God, he will also repay thee: be circumspect my son, in all things thou doest, and be wise in all thy conversation.

15 Do that to no man which thou hatest: drink not wine to make thee drunken: neither let drunkenness go with thee in thy journey.

16 Give of thy bread to the hungry, and of thy garments to them that are naked; and according to thine abundance give alms; and let not thine eye be envious when thou givest alms.

17 Pour out thy bread on the burial of the just, but give nothing to the wicked.

18 Ask counsel of all that are wise, and despise not any counsel that is profitable.

19 Bless the Lord thy God alway, and desire of him that thy ways may be directed, and that all thy paths and counsels may prosper: for every nation hath not counsel, but the Lord himself giveth all good things, and he humbleth whom he will, as he will; now therefore my son, remember my commandments, neither let them be put out of thy mind.

20 And now I signify this to thee, that I committed ten talents to Gabael the son of Gabrias at Rages in Media.

21 And fear not my son, that we are made poor: for thou hast much wealth, if thou fear God, and depart from all sin, and do that which is pleasing in his sight.

#### C H A P. V.

4 Young Tobias seeketh a guide into Media.

6 The angel will go with him, 12 and saith he is his kinsman. 16 Tobias and the angel depart together: 17 But his mother is grieved for her son's departing.

U

Tobias

19 Bless the Lord thy God alway, &c.] Tobit could not conclude his excellent admonitions without repeating what he had before delivered in other terms, namely, that

it is from the Lord all our happiness flows; it is he that causeth our undertakings to prosper, and blesteth the labours of our hands.



**T**OBIAH then answered and said, Father, I will do all things which thou hast commanded me.

2 But how can I receive the money, seeing I know him not?

3 Then he gave him the hand-writing, and said unto him, Seek thee a man which may go with thee whiles I yet live, and I will give him wages: and go and receive the money.

4 Therefore when he went to seek a man, he found Raphael that was an angel.

5 But he knew not, and he said unto him, Canst thou go with me to Rages? and knowest thou those places well?

6 To whom the angel said, I will go with thee, and I know the way well: for I have lodged with our brother Gabael.

7 Then Tobias said unto him, Tarry for me till I tell my father.

8 Then he said unto him, Go, and tarry not: so he went in and said to his father, Behold, I have found one which will go with me. Then he said, call him unto me, that I may know of what tribe he is, and whether he be a trusty man to go with thee.

9 So he called him, and he came in, and they satured one another.

10 Then Tobit said unto him, Brother, shew me of what tribe and family thou art.

11 To whom he said, Dost thou seek for a tribe or family, or an hired man to go with thy son? Then Tobit said unto him, I would know, brother, thy kindred and name.

12 Then he said, I am Azarias, the son

of Ananias the great, and of thy brethren.

13 Then Tobit said, Thou art welcome, brother, be not now angry with me, because I have enquired to know thy tribe, and thy family, for thou art my brother, of an honest and good stock: for I know Ananias, and Jonathas, sons of that great Samaias: as we went together to Jerusalem to worship, and offered the first-born, and the tenths of the fruits, and they were not seduced with the error of our brethren: my brother, thou art of a good stock.

14 But tell me, what wages shall I give thee? wilt thou a drachme a day, and things necessary as to mine own son?

15 Yea, moreover, if ye return safe, I will add something to thy wages.

16 So they were well pleased. Then said he to Tobias, prepare thyself for the journey, and God send you a good journey. And when his son had prepared all things for the journey, his father said, Go thou with this man, and God which dwelleth in heaven, prosper your journey, and the angel of God keep you company, So they went forth both, and the young man's dog with them.

17 But Anna his mother wept, and said to Tobit, Why hast thou sent away our son? is he not the staff of our hand, ingoing in and out before us?

18 Be not greedy (to add) money to money: but let it be as refuse in respect of our child.

19 For that which the Lord hath given us to live with, doth suffice us.

20 Then

#### NOTES on Chap. V.

Ver. 4 *He found Raphael, &c.*] Tobias obeyed the directions of his father, and went out to find a man to accompany him in his journey. And as he was passing through the street, the angel Raphael appeared to him in the form of a young Israelite, and offered to conduct him

to his father's friend Gabael, at Rages, at whose house he had lodged.

18 *Be not greedy (to add) money to money, &c.*] Margin, Let not money be added, but be the off-scouring of our son.

19 *For that which the Lord hath given us, &c.*] Margin, So long as God hath granted us to live, this is sufficient.

20 Then said Tobit to her, Take no care, my sister; he shall return in safety, and thine eyes shall see him.

21 For the good angel will keep him company, and his journey shall be prosperous, and he shall return safe.

22 Then she made an end of weeping.

#### CHAP. VI.

4 The angel biddeth Tobias to take the liver, heart, and gall out of a fish, 10 and to marry Sara the daughter of Raguel: 16 and teacheth how to drive the wicked spirit away.

AND as they went on their journey, they came in the evening to the river Tigris, and they lodged there.

2 And when the young man went down to wash himself, a fish leaped out of the river, and would have devoured him.

3 Then the angel said unto him, take the fish: and the young man laid hold of the fish, and drew it to land.

4 To whom the angel said, Open the fish, and take the heart, and the liver, and the gall, and put them up safely.

5 So the young man did as the angel commanded him: and when they had roasted the fish, they did eat it: then they both went on their way, till they drew near to Ecbatane.

6 Then the young man said to the angel, Brother Azarias, to what use is the heart, and the liver, and the gall of the fish?

7 And he said unto him, Touching the heart and the liver, if a devil, or an evil spirit trouble any, we must make a smoke

thereof before the man or the woman, and the party shall be no more vexed.

8 As for the gall, it is good to anoint a man that hath whiteness in his eyes, and he shall be healed.

9 And when they were come near to Rages,

10 The angel said to the young man, Brother, to day we shall lodge with Raguel, who is thy cousin; he also hath one only daughter, named Sara; I will speak for her that she may be given thee for a wife.

11 For to thee doth the right of her appertain, seeing thou only art of her kindred.

12 And the maid is fair and wise: now therefore hear me, and I will speak to her father; and when we return from Rages, we will celebrate the marriage; for I know that Raguel cannot marry her to another, according to the law of Moses, but he shall be guilty of death, because the right of inheritance doth rather appertain to thee, than to any other.

13 Then the young man answered the angel, I have heard, brother Azarias, that this maid hath been given to seven men, who all died in the marriage-chamber.

14 And now I am the only son of my father, and I am afraid, lest if I go in unto her, I die, as the other before: for a wicked spirit loveth her, which hurteth no body, but those which come unto her; wherefore I also fear, lest I die, and bring my father's and my mother's life (because of me) to the grave with sorrow: for they have no other son to bury them.

15 Then the angel said unto him, Dost thou

#### NOTES on Chap. VI.

Ver. 3 And drew it to land.] Margin, Cast it upon the land.

8 As for the gall, &c.] This fish, according to Bochart, is that river-fish, which the Latins call silurus; it is found

only in great rivers, and is the boldest and most voracious of any fresh-water fish whatever; its throat is very large, its teeth very sharp; and physicians say its gall is good for any distemper in the eyes.

11 To thee doth the right of her appertain, &c.] Margin, Inheritance. See Numb. xxvii 8. and xxxvi, 8.



thou not remember the precepts which thy father gave thee, that thou shouldest marry a wife of thine own kindred? wherefore hear me, O my brother, for she shall be given thee to wife; and make thou no reckoning of the evil spirit; for this same night shall she be given thee in marriage.

16 And when thou shalt come into the marriage-chamber, thou shalt take the ashes of perfume, and shalt lay upon them, some of the heart and liver of the fish, and shalt make a smoke with it:

17 and the devil shall smell it, and flee away, and never come again any more: but when thou shalt come to her, rise up both of you, and pray to God which is merciful, who will have pity on you, and save you: fear not, for she is appointed unto thee from the beginning; and thou shalt preserve her, and she shall go with thee: moreover, I suppose that she shall bear thee children. Now when Tobias had heard these things, he loved her, and his heart was effectually joined to her.

#### C H A P. VII.

11 Raguel telleth Tobias what had happened to his daughter: 12 and giveth her in marriage unto him: 17 She is conveyed to her chamber, and weepeth: 18 Her mother comforteth her.

**A**ND when they were come to Ecbatane, they came to the house of Raguel, and Sara met them: and after they had saluted one another, she brought them into the house.

2 Then said Raguel to Edna his wife,

How like is this young man to Tobit my cousin!

3 And Raguel asked them, From whence are you, brethren? To whom they said, We are of the sons of Nephtholim, which are captives in Nineve.

4 Then he said to them, Do ye know Tobit our kinsman? And they said, We know him. Then said he, Is he in good health?

5 And they said, He is both alive, and in good health: and Tobias said, He is my father.

6 Then Raguel leaped up, and kissed him, and wept,

7 And blessed him, and said unto him, Thou art the son of an honest and good man; but when he had heard that Tobit was blind, he was sorrowful, and wept.

8 And likewise Edna his wife, and Sara his daughter wept. Moreover, they entertained them cheerfully, and after that they had killed a ram of the flock, they set store of meat on the table. Then said Tobias to Raphael, Brother Azarias, speak of those things of which thou didst talk in the way, and let this business be dispatched.

9 So he communicated the matter with Raguel: and Raguel said to Tobias, Eat and drink, and make merry;

10 For it is meet that thou shouldest marry my daughter: nevertheless I will declare unto thee the truth.

11 I have given my daughter in marriage to seven men, who died that night they came in unto her: nevertheless for the present

15 Dost thou not remember the precepts which thy father gave thee? The angel, to remove the fears of Tobias, told him, that the persons over whom the evil spirit had power, were such as married without the fear of God, and only to satisfy their brutal appetites; but that if he followed his instructions, he would be able to drive the evil spirit from the house.

17 His heart was effectually joined unto her.] Or, vehemently. Margin.

#### NOTES on Chap. VII.

Ver. 8 After that they had killed a ram of the flock.] A sucking ram, or lamb. Junius.

10 It is meet that thou shouldest marry, &c.] In this transaction between Raguel and Tobias, in relation to the intended marriage, we may observe the honesty of Raguel in acquainting Tobias, before the ceremony was performed, of the terrible consequences which would in all

present be merry. But Tobias said, I will eat nothing here, till we agree, and swear one to another.

12 Raguel said, Then take her from henceforth according to the manner, for thou art her cousin, and she is thine, and the merciful God give you good success in all things.

13 Then he called his daughter Sara, and she came to her father, and he took her by the hand, and gave her to be wife to Tobias, saying, Behold, take her after the law of Moses, and lead her away to thy father: and he blessed them,

14 And called Edna his wife, and took paper, and did write an instrument of covenants, and sealed it:

15 Then they began to eat.

16 After Raguel called his wife Edna, and said unto her, Sister, prepare another chamber, and bring her in thither.

17 Which when she had done as he had bidden her, she brought her thither; and she wept, and she received the tears of her daughter, and said unto her,

18 Be of good comfort, my daughter; the Lord of heaven and earth give thee joy for this thy sorrow: be of good comfort, my daughter.

#### CHAP. VIII.

2 Tobias driveth the wicked spirit away, as he was taught: 4 He and his wife rise up to pray. 10 Raguel thought he was dead:

15 But finding him alive, praiseth God, 19 and maketh a wedding-feast.

AND when they had supped, they brought Tobias in unto her.

2 And as he went he remembered the words of Raphael, and took the ashes of the perfumes, and put the heart and the liver of the fish thereupon, and made a smoke therewith.

3 The which smell when the evil spirit had smelled, he fled into the utmost parts of Egypt, and the angel bound him.

4 And after that they were both shut in together, Tobias rose out of the bed, and said, Sister, arise, and let us pray, that God would have pity on us.

5 Then began Tobias to say, Blessed art thou, O God of our fathers, and blessed is thy holy and glorious name for ever; let the heavens bless thee, and all thy creatures.

6 Thou madest Adam, and gavest him Eve his wife for an helper and stay: of them came mankind: Thou hast said, It is not good that man should be alone; let us make unto him an aid like unto himself.

7 And now, O Lord, I take not this my sister for lust, but uprightly: therefore mercifully ordain that we may become aged together.

8 And she said with him, Amen.

9 So they slept both that night. And Raguel arose, and went and made a grave,

10 Saying, I fear lest he also be dead.

11 But when Raguel was come into his house,

12 He said unto his wife Edna, Send one of the maids, and let her see whether he be alive: if he be not, that we may bury him, and no man know it.

X

13 So

probability flow from their nuptials, from what had befallen her former husbands. But Tobias, confiding in, and resolving to obey the directions which had been given him for his conduct and behaviour on this occasion, refused to eat or drink till Raguel had absolutely agreed to give him his daughter in marriage.

12 According to the manner.] Or, law.

13 Take her, after the law of Moses.] See Numb. xxxvi. 6.

17 She received the tears, &c.] Or, licked.

#### NOTES on Chap. VIII.

Ver. 5 *Blessed art thou, O God of my fathers, &c.*] This prayer which Tobias offered to the Almighty is very pious, and well adapted to the occasion; nor is it an improper form to be used by every-new married couple even in our days.



13 So the maid opened the door, and went in, and found them both asleep,

14 And came forth, and told them that he was alive.

15 Then Raguel praised God, and said, O God, thou art worthy to be praised with all pure and holy praise; therefore let thy saints praise thee with all thy creatures; and let all thine angels and thine elect praise thee for ever.

16 Thou art to be praised, for thou hast made me joyful; and that is not come to me which I suspected; but thou hast dealt with us according to thy great mercy.

17 Thou art to be praised, because thou hast had mercy of two that were the only begotten children of their fathers: grant them mercy, O Lord, and finish their life in health, with joy and mercy.

18 Then Raguel bade his servants to fill the grave.

19 And he kept the wedding-feast fourteen days.

20 For before the days of the marriage were finished, Raguel had said unto him by an oath, that he should not depart till the fourteen days of the marriage were expired,

21 And then he should take the half of his goods, and go in safety to his father; and should have the rest when I and my wife be dead.

#### C H A P. IX.

1 Tobias sendeth the angel unto Gabael for the money. 6 The angel bringeth it, and Gabael to the wedding.

**T**HEN Tobias called Raphael, and said unto him,

2 Brother Azarias, take with thee a servant, and two camels, and go to Rages of Media, to Gabael, and bring me the money, and bring him to the wedding.

3 For Raguel hath sworn that I shall not depart.

4 But my father counteth the days, and if I tarry long, he will be very sorry.

5 So Raphael went out, and lodged with Gabael, and gave him the hand-writing; who brought forth bags, which were sealed up, and gave them to him.

6 And early in the morning they went forth both together, and came to the wedding, and Tobias blessed his wife.

#### C H A P. X.

1 Tobit and his wife long for their son: 7 She will not be comforted by her husband.

10 Raguel sendeth Tobias and his wife away with half their goods, 12 and bleisseth them.

**N**OW Tobit his father counted every day: and when the days of the journey were expired, and they came not,

2 Then Tobit said, Are they detained? or is Gabael dead, and there is no man to give him the money?

3 Therefore he was very sorry.

4 Then his wife said unto him, My son is dead, seeing he stayeth long; and she began to bewail him, and said,

5 Now I care for nothing, my son, since I have let thee go, the light of mine eyes.

6 To whom Tobit said, Hold thy peace, take no care, for he is safe.

7 But she said, Hold thy peace, and deceive

#### NOTES on Chap. IX.

Ver. 1 *Then Tobias called Raphael, &c.*] Tobias, that he might not seem to neglect his father's affairs while he was feasting with his father-in-law, intreated the angel to go to Rages, and receive from Gabael the money due to his father. The angel went, and received the money, told Gabael what had happened to Tobias, and conducted him to the wedding.

In this chapter, the filial duty and tender regard of To-

bias for his aged parents is very remarkable: not the kind entertainment, the feasting and rejoicing with which his father-in-law endeavoured to amuse him, nor even the delight which he doubtless took in the company of his new bride, could banish from his thoughts the care and concern in which he reasonably imagined his aged parents were involved on his account.

6 *Tobias blessed his wife.*] Junius reads, Gabael blessed Tobias and his wife.

deceive me not ; my son is dead : and she went out every day into the way which they went, and did eat no meat on the day-time, and ceased not whole nights to bewail her son Tobias, until the fourteen days of the wedding were expired, which Raguel had sworn that he should spend there. Then Tobias said to Raguel, Let me go, for my father and my mother look no more to see me.

8 But his father in law said unto him, Tarry with me, and I will send to thy father, and they shall declare unto him how things go with thee.

9 But Tobias said, No, but let me go to my father.

10 Then Raguel arose, and gave him Sara his wife, and half his goods, servants, and cattle, and money :

11 And he blessed them, and sent them away, saying, The God of heaven give you a prosperous journey, my children.

12 And he said to his daughter, Honour thy father and thy mother in law, which are now thy parents, that I may hear good report of thee : and he kissed her. Edna also said to Tobias, The Lord of heaven restore thee, my dear brother, and grant that I may see thy children of my daughter Sara before I die, that I may rejoice before the Lord : behold, I commit my daughter unto thee of special trust ; wherefore do not intreat her evil.

#### C H A P. XI.

6 Tobias mother spieth her son coming : 10 His father meeteth him at the door and re-

covereth his sight : 14 He praiseth God, 17 and welcometh his daughter in law.

AFTER these things Tobias went his way, praising God that he had given him a prosperous journey, and blessed Raguel, and Edna his wife, and went on his way till they drew near unto Nineve.

2 Then Raphael said to Tobias, Thou knowest, brother, how thou didst leave thy father.

3 Let us haste before thy wife, and prepare the house :

4 And take in thine hand the gall of the fish. So they went their way, and the dog went after them.

5 Now Anna sat looking about towards the way for her son.

6 And when she espied him coming, she said to his father, Behold, thy son cometh, and the man that went with him.

7 Then said Raphael, I know, Tobias, that thy father will open his eyes.

8 Therefore anoint thou his eyes with the gall, and being pricked therewith, he shall rub, and the whiteness shall fall away, and he shall see thee.

9 Then Anna ran forth, and fell upon the neck of her son, and said unto him, Seeing I have seen thee, my son, from henceforth I am content to die ; and they wept both.

10 Tobit also went forth toward the door, and stumbled : but his son ran unto him,

11 And took hold of his father : and he strake of the gall on his fathers eyes, saying,

#### NOTES on Chap. X.

Ver. 11 *He blessed them, and sent them away, &c.*] The conclusion of this chapter exhibits a remarkable instance of that endearing affection which nature has implanted in the hearts of parents for their children, especially when providence thinks proper to separate them from each other.

12 *I commit my daughter unto thee of special trust.*] Margin, To be safely kept.

#### NOTES on Chap. XI.

Ver. 1 *Tobias went his way, praising God, &c.*] The pious historian has taken care in every transaction he has recorded, to render the whole honour to God, and it would be of the greatest advantage to us if we imitated his example. And surely when it is remembered that every good gift cometh from above, we shall be very ungrateful to receive the benefit, and not be thankful to the giver. It is



ing, Be of good hope; my father.

12 And when his eyes began to smart, he rubbed them;

13 And the whiteness pilled away from the corners of his eyes: and when he saw his son, he fell upon his neck.

14 And he wept and said, Blessed art thou, O God, and blessed is thy name for ever, and blessed are all thine holy angels:

15 For thou hast scourged and hast taken pity on me: for behold, I see my son Tobias. And his son went in rejoicing, and told his father the great things that had happened to him in Media.

16 Then Tobit went out to meet his daughter in law, at the gate of Nineve, rejoicing and praising God: and they which saw him go, marvelled, because he had received his sight.

17 But Tobit gave thanks before them, because God had mercy on him. And when he came near to Sara his daughter in law, he blessed her, saying, Thou art welcome, daughter: God be blessed, which hast brought thee unto us, and *blessed be thy father and thy mother.* And there was joy amongst all his brethren which were at Nineve.

18 And Achiacharus, and Nasbas his brothers son came.

19 And Tobias wedding was kept seven days with great joy.

#### C H A P. XII.

5 *Tobit offereth half to the angel for his pains.*

6 *But he calleth them both aside, and exhorteth them, 15 and telleth them that he was an angel, and was seen no more.*

**T**HEN Tobit called his son Tobias, and said unto him, My son, see that the man have his wages which went with thee, and thou must give him more.

2 And Tobias said unto him, O father, it is no harm to me to give him half of those things which I have brought.

3 For he hath brought me again to thee in safety, and made whole my wife, and brought me the money, and likewise healed thee.

4 Then the old man said, It is due unto him.

5 So he called the angel, and he said unto him, Take half of all that ye have brought, and go away in safety.

6 Then he took them both apart, and said unto them, Bless God, praise him, and magnify him, and praise him for the things which he hath done unto you in the sight of all that live. It is good to praise God, and exalt his name, and honourably to shew forth the works of God; therefore be not slack to praise him.

7 It is good to keep close the secrets of a king, but it is honourable to reveal the works of God: do that which is good, and no evil shall touch you.

8 Prayer is good with fasting, and alms, and righteousness: a little with righteousness is better than much with unrighteousness,

to him we owe our creation, preservation, and all the happiness we enjoy; and therefore should be careful to render him our constant tribute of praise and thanksgiving.

18 *And Nasbas.]* Junius reads, Who is also called Nasbas.

#### NOTES on Chap. XII.

Ver. 1 *Then Tobit called his son Tobias, &c.]* Tobit considered the great trouble Azarias had taken, and being desirous to reward him in proportion to the greatness of his service, offered him half the riches they had acquired in

their journey; an instance of justice and benevolence that merits attention, and shews that Tobit and his son delighted in the works of liberality.

6 *Then he took them both apart, &c.]* This account of the angel, whether true or fictitious, affords this excellent moral, that obedience to God, and a tender and dutiful regard to parents, are pleasing to the Almighty, and will, sooner or later, be surely rewarded by the great Creator of the universe.

*And honourably to shew forth the works of God.]* Margin. Or, with honour.

ness ; it is better to give alms than to lay up gold.

9 For alms doth deliver from death, and shall purge away all sin. Those that exercise alms and righteousness, shall be filled with life :

10 But they that sin, are enemies to their own life.

11 Surely, I will keep close nothing from you. For I said, It was good to keep close the secrets of a king, but that it was honourable to reveal the works of God.

12 Now therefore when thou didst pray, and Sara thy daughter in law, I did bring the remembrance of your prayers before the holy One ; and when thou didst bury the dead, I was with thee likewise.

13 And when thou didst not delay to rise up, and leave thy dinner to go and cover the dead, thy good deed was not hid from me : but I was with thee.

14 And now God hath sent me to heal thee, and Sara thy daughter in law.

15 I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels, which present the prayers of the saints, and which go in and out before the glory of the holy One.

16 Then they were both troubled, and fell upon their faces : for they feared.

17 But he said unto them, Fear not, for it shall go well with you : praise God therefore.

18 For not of any favour of mine, but by the will of our God I came ; wherefore praise him for ever.

19 All these days I did appear unto you ; but I did neither eat nor drink, but you did see a vision.

20 Now therefore give God thanks : for I go up to him that sent me, but write all things, which are done in a book.

21 And when they arose, they saw him no more.

22 Then they confessed the great and wonderful works of God, and how the angel of the Lord had appeared unto them.

### C H A P. XIII.

*The thanksgiving unto God which Tobit wrote.*

**T**HEN Tobit wrote a prayer of rejoicing, and said, Blessed be God that liveth for ever, and blessed be his kingdom.

2 For he doth scourge, and hath mercy : he leadeth down to hell, and bringeth up again : neither is there any that can avoid his hand.

3 Confess him before the Gentiles, ye children of Israel : for he hath scattered us among them.

4 There declare his greatness, and extol him before all the living ; for he is our Lord, and he is the God our Father for ever.

5 And he will scourge us for our iniquities, and will have mercy again, and will gather us out of all nations, among whom he hath scattered us.

6 If you turn to him with your whole heart, and with your whole mind, and deal uprightly before him, then will he turn unto you, and will not hide his face from you. Therefore see what he will do with you, and confess him with your whole mouth, and praise the Lord of might, and extol the everlasting King. In the land of my captivity do I praise him, and declare his might  
Y and

13 *To go and cover.*] Greek, To go and bury.

#### NOTES on Chap. XIII.

Ver. 1 *Tobit wrote a prayer of rejoicing, &c.*] Tobit, having received so many mercies, could not conceal his gratitude, but wrote a prayer of thanksgiving, wherein he

displays the wonderful power of God, and calls upon the Israelites to extol his name before all people ; advising sinners to repent, and turn to the Lord, in order to avert his judgments, and obtain mercy for their manifold transgressions ; concluding with an exhortation to praise the everlasting King.



majesty to a sinful nation : O ye sinners, turn and do justice before him : who can tell if he will accept you, and have mercy on you ?

7 I will extol my God, and my soul shall praise the King of heaven, and shall rejoice in his greatness.

8 Let all men speak, and let all praise him for his righteousness.

9 O Jerusalem the holy city, he will scourge thee for thy childrens works, and will have mercy again on the sons of the righteous.

10 Give praise to the Lord, for he is good : and praise the everlasting King, that his tabernacle may be builded in thee again with joy, and let him make joyful there in thee those that are captives, and love in thee for ever those that are miserable.

11 Many nations shall come from far to the name of the Lord God, with gifts in their hands, even gifts to the King of heaven ; all generations shall praise thee with great joy.

12 Cursed *are* all they which hate thee, and blessed shall all be which love thee for ever.

13 Rejoice and be glad for the children of the just : for they shall be gathered together, and shall bless the Lord of the just.

14 O blessed *are* they which love thee, for they shall rejoice in thy peace : blessed *are* they which have been sorrowful for all thy scourges ; for they shall rejoice for thee, when they have seen all thy glory, and shall be glad for ever.

15 Let my soul bless God the great King.

16 For Jerusalem shall be built up with sapphires, and emeralds, and precious stones : thy walls and towers, and battlements, with pure gold.

17 And the streets of Jerusalem shall be paved with beryl, and carbuncle, and stones of Ophir.

18 And all her streets shall say, Alleluia ; and they shall praise him, saying, Blessed be God which hath extolled it for ever.

#### C H A P. XIV.

3 *Tobit giveth instructions to his son, 8 specially to leave Nineve : 11 He and his wife die, and are buried. 12 Tobias removeth to Ecbatane, 14 and there died, after he had heard of the destruction of Nineve.*

**S**O Tobit made an end of praising God. 2 And he was eight and fifty years old when he lost his sight, which was restored to him after eight years : and he gave alms, and he increased in the fear of the Lord God, and praised him.

3 And when he was very aged, he called his son, and the six sons of his son, and said to him, My son, take thy children ; for behold, I am aged, and am ready to depart out of this life.

4 Go into Media, my son, for I surely believe those things which Jonas the prophet spake of Nineve ; that it shall be overthrown, and that for a time peace shall rather be in Media ; and that our brethren shall lie scattered in the earth from that good land ; and Jerusalem shall be desolate, and the

9 *He will scourge thee for thy childrens works.*] Or, as it is in the original, He will lay a scourge upon the works of thy children.

10 *And let him make, &c.*] Margin, To make.

14 *Rejoice in thy peace.*] Or, prosperity.

#### NOTES on Chap. XIV.

Ver. 2 *He was eight and fifty years old, &c.*] In this chapter we have an account of the great age of Tobit and

his son, and of the great prosperity they enjoyed during the latter part of their lives ; so that their good works were rewarded, even in this life ; and should teach us to put our trust in that benevolent being who inspired us with life, and who continually directs and governs the operations of nature.

*And he increased in the fear of the Lord.*] Margin, Did more and more fear.

the house of God in it shall be burned, and shall be desolate for a time;

5 And that again God will have mercy on them, and bring them again into the land, where they shall build a temple, but not like to the first, until the time of that age be fulfilled: and afterward they shall return from *all* places of their captivity, and build up Jerusalem gloriously, and the house of God shall be built in it for ever, with a glorious building, as the prophets have spoken thereof.

6 And all nations shall turn, and fear the Lord God truly, and shall bury their idols.

7 So shall all nations praise the Lord, and his people shall confess God, and the Lord shall exalt his people; and all those which love the Lord God in truth and justice, shall rejoice, shewing mercy to our brethren.

8 And now, my son, depart out of Nineve, because that those things which the prophet Jonas spake shall surely come to pass.

9 But keep thou the law and the commandments, and shew thyself merciful and just, that it may go well with thee.

10 And bury me decently, and thy mother with me, but tarry no longer at Nineve. Remember, my son, how Aman

handled Achiacharus that brought him up, how out of light he brought him into darkness, and how he rewarded him again: yet Achiacharus was saved, but the other had his reward: for he went down into darkness. Manasses gave alms, and escaped the snares of death which they had set for him: but Aman fell into the snare and perished.

11 Wherefore now, my son, consider what alms doeth, and how righteousness doth deliver. When he had said these things, he gave up the ghost in the bed, being an hundred and eight and fifty years old, and he buried him honourably.

12 And when Anna his mother was dead, he buried her with his father: but Tobias departed with his wife and children to Ecbatane to Raguel his father in law,

13 Where he became old with honour, and he buried his father and mother in law honourably, and he inherited their substance, and his father Tobit's.

14 And he died at Ecbatane in Media, being an hundred and seven and twenty years old.

15 But before he died, he heard of the destruction of Nineve, which was taken by Nabuchodonosor and Assuerus: and before his death he rejoiced over Nineve.

5 *For ever.*] This is not in the Roman copy.

8 *Depart out of Nineve, &c.*] Tobit, when he drew near his end, cautioned his son to leave Nineve, assuring him that the prophecy of Jonas would be certainly fulfilled, and the superb buildings of that magnificent city blended with the dust. Tobias obeyed the voice of

his father, retired into Media, and saw the destruction of Nineve.

10 *Achiacharus was saved.*] Or, preserved.

*Manasses gave alms.*] Junius reads, Nitzba.

*Which they had set.*] Roman copy, Which he had set.

11 *And he buried him, &c.*] Margin, They.





# J U D I T H.

## The A R G U M E N T.

*The Book of JUDITH, says Dr. Prideaux, was originally written in the Chaldee language by some Jew of Babylon, and from thence was, by St. Jerome, translated into the Latin tongue, which is the translation that is now extant in the vulgar Latin edition of the Bible. There are two other translations, one in Greek, and the other in Syriac. Whether the book be a true, or a feigned history, is what learned men are not agreed in. The Romanists will have it to be all true; for they have received it into the canon of divine writ. But abundance of learned writers, among the Protestants, agree with Grotius, that this book is rather a parabolical than a real history, made for the instructing and comforting the people of the Jews, and not to give them a narrative of any thing ready done; and their reason for it is, that they think it utterly inconsistent with all times where it has been endeavoured to be placed, either before or after the captivity of the Jews.*

## CHAP. I.

*2 Arphaxad doth fortify Ecbatane: 5 Nabuchodonosor maketh war against him, 7 and craveth aid: 12 He threateneth those that would not aid him, 15 and killeth Arphaxad, 16 and returneth to Nineve.*

*IN the twelfth year of the reign of Nabuchodonosor, who reigned in Nineve the great city (in the days of Arphaxad, which reigned over the Medes in Ecbatane,*

*2 And*

2 And built in Ecbatane walls round about, of stones hewn three cubits broad and six cubits long, and made the height of the wall seventy cubits, and the breadth thereof fifty cubits:

3 And set the towers thereof upon the gates of it, an hundred cubits *high*, and the breadth thereof in the foundation threescore cubits.

4 And he made the gates thereof, even gates that were raised to the height of seventy cubits, and the breadth of them was forty cubits, for the going forth of his mighty armies, and for the setting in array of his footmen.)

5 Even in those days king Nabuchodonosor made war with king Arphaxad in the great plain, which is the plain in the borders of Ragau.

6 And there came unto him all they that dwelt in the hill-country, and all that dwelt by Euphrates, and Tigris, and Hydaspes, and the plain of Arioch the king of the Elymeans, and very many nations of the sons of Chelod, assembled themselves to the battle.

7 Then Nabuchodonosor king of the Assyrians, sent unto all that dwelt in Persia, and to all that dwelt westward, and to those that dwelt in Cilicia, and Damascus, and Libanus, and Antilibanus, and to all that dwelt upon the sea-coast.

8 And to those amongst the nations that were of Carmel, and Galaad, and the higher Galilee, and the great plain of Eldrelom.

9 And to all that were in Samaria and the cities thereof, and beyond Jordan unto Jerusalem, and Betane, and Chellus, and Cades, and the river of Egypt, and Taphnes, and Ramesse, and all the land of Gesem,

10 Until you come beyond Tanis, and Memphis, and to all the inhabitants of Egypt, until you come to the borders of Ethiopia.

11 But all the inhabitants of the land made light of the commandment of Nabuchodonosor king of the Assyrians, neither went they with him to the battle: for they were not afraid of him: yea, he was before them as one man, and they sent away his ambassadors from them without effect, and with disgrace.

12 Therefore Nabuchodonosor was very angry with all this country, and sware by his throne and kingdom, that he would surely be avenged upon all those coasts of Cilicia, and Damascus, and Syria, and that he would slay with the sword all the inhabitants of the land of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and all Judea, and all that were in Egypt, till you come to the borders of the two seas.

13 Then he marched in battle-array with his power against king Arphaxad in the seventeenth year, and he prevailed in his battle: for he overthrew all the power of Arphaxad, and all his horsemen, and all his chariots,

14 And became lord of his cities, and came unto Ecbatane, and took the towers, and spoiled the streets thereof, and turned the beauty thereof into shame.

15 He took also Arphaxad in the mountains of Ragau, and smote him through with his darts, and destroyed him utterly that day.

16 So he returned afterward to Nineve, both he and all his company of sundry nations, being a very great multitude of men of war, and there he took his ease, and  
Z banqueted,

Ver. 1 In the twelfth year of the reign of Nabuchodonosor, &c.] This Nabuchodonosor is the same prince whom Herodotus calls Salsdnehus, who, after the death of Eshadon, succeeded to his acquisitions; and the reason why

the author of the book of Judith, who certainly wrote either in Babylon, or some other part of Chaldee, calls him Nabuchodonosor, is, because this was the common name of the kings of the country.



banqueted, both he and his army, an hundred and twenty days.

### CHAP. II.

4 *Holofernes is appointed general, 11 and charged to spare none that will not yield:*

15 *His army and provision: 23 The places which he won and wasted as he went.*

AND in the eighteenth year, the two and twentieth day of the first month, there was talk in the house of Nabuchodonosor king of the Assyrians, that he should, as he said, avenge himself on all the earth.

2 So he called unto him all his officers, and all his nobles, and communicated with them his secret counsel, and concluded the afflicting of the whole earth out of his own mouth.

3 Then they decreed to destroy all flesh that did not obey the commandment of his mouth.

4 And when he had ended his counsel, Nabuchodonosor king of the Assyrians, called Holofernes the chief captain of his army, which was next unto him, and said unto him,

5 Thus saith the great king, the lord of the whole earth, Behold, thou shalt go forth from my presence, and take with thee men that trust in their own strength, of footmen an hundred and twenty thousand; and the number of horses with their riders, twelve thousand.

6 And thou shalt go against all the west-country, because they disobeyed my commandment.

7 And thou shalt declare unto them, that they prepare for me earth and water: for I will go forth in my wrath against them, and will cover the whole face of the earth with the feet of mine army, and I will give them for a spoil unto them.

8 So that their slain shall fill their vallies and brooks, and the river shall be filled with their dead till it overflow.

9 And I will lead them captives to the utmost parts of all the earth.

10 Thou therefore shalt go forth, and take beforehand for me all their coasts: and if they will yield themselves unto thee, thou shalt reserve them for me till the day of their punishment.

11 But concerning them that rebel, let not thine eyes spare them; but put them to the slaughter, and spoil them wheresoever thou goest.

12 For as I live, and by the power of my kingdom, whatsoever I have spoken, that will I do by mine hand.

13 And take thou heed that thou transgress none of the commandments of thy lord, but accomplish them fully, as I have commanded thee, and defer not to do them.

14 Then Holofernes went forth from the presence of his lord, and called all the governors and captains, and the officers of the army of Assur.

15 And he mustered the chosen men for the battle, as his lord had commanded him, unto an hundred and twenty thousand, and twelve thousand archers on horseback.

16 And

### NOTES on Chap. II.

Ver. 2 *And concluded the afflicting, &c.]* See 1 Sam. xx.

7. xxv. 17.

4 *Holofernes the chief captain, &c.]* Some commentators are of opinion, that the word Holofernes is of Persian extract; but others think, that this general was a native either of Pontus, or Cappadocia. Polybius mentions one of this name, who having conquered Cappadocia, soon lost it again, because he was for changing the ancient customs of the country, and introducing drunkenness, together

with feasts, and songs to Bacchus: and hence Casaubon conjectures, that this was the same Holofernes who commanded Nabuchodonosor's army; as his riot and debauchery, as well as the rapidity of his conquest, seem to form a strong resemblance with those of the conqueror of Cappadocia.

*Next unto him.]* Greek, Second man.

7 *That they prepare for me earth and water, &c.]* This, as Herodotus informs us, was after the manner of the kings of Persia, to whom earth and water used to be given, to acknowledge that they were lords of land and sea.

16. And he ranged them as a great army is ordered for the war.

17. And he took camels and asses for their carriages, a very great number; and sheep, and oxen, and goats without number, for their provision:

18. And plenty of victuals for every man of the army, and very much gold and silver out of the king's house.

19. Then he went forth and all his power to go before king Nabuchodonosor in the voyage, and to cover all the face of the earth westward with their chariots, and horsemen, and their chosen footmen.

20. A great multitude also of sundry countries came with them like locusts, and like the sand of the earth: for the multitude was without number.

21. And they went forth of Nineve three days journey toward the plain of Beçtileth, and pitched from Beçtileth near the mountain which is at the left hand of the upper Cilicia.

22. Then he took all his army, his footmen, and horsemen, and chariots, and went from thence into the hill-country;

23. And destroyed Phud and Lud, and spoiled all the children of Rassés, and the children of Ismael, which were toward the wilderness at the south of the land of the Chellians.

24. Then he went over Euphrates, and went through Mesopotamia, and destroyed all the high cities that were upon the river Arbonai, till you come to the sea.

25. And he took the borders of Cilicia, and killed all that resisted him, and came to the borders of Japheth, which were toward the south, over against Arabia.

26. He compassed also all the children of Madian, and burnt up their tabernacles, and spoiled their sheep-cotes.

27. Then he went down into the plain of Damascus, in the time of wheat-harvest, and burnt up all their fields, and destroyed their flocks and herds, also he spoiled their cities, and utterly wasted their countries, and smote all their young men with the edge of the sword.

28. Therefore the fear and dread of him fell upon all the inhabitants of the sea-coasts, which were in Sidon and Tyrus, and them that dwelt in Sur, and Ocina, and all that dwelt in Jemnaan; and they that dwelt in Azotus, and Ascalon, feared him greatly.

### CHAP. III.

1. *They of the sea-coasts intreat for peace. 7 Holofernes is received there: 8 Yet he destroyeth their gods, that they might worship only Nabuchodonosor: 9 He cometh near to Judea.*

**S**O they sent ambassadors unto him, to treat of peace, saying,

2. Behold, we the servants of Nabuchodonosor the great king lie before thee; use us as shall be good in thy sight.

3. Behold, our houses, and all our places, and all our fields of wheat, and flocks, and herds, and all the lodges of our tents, lie before thy face; use them as it pleaseth thee.

4. Behold, even our cities, and the inhabitants thereof are thy servants; come and deal with them as seemeth good unto thee.

5. So the men came to Holofernes, and declared unto him after this manner.

6. Then came he down toward the sea-coast, both he and his army, and set garrisons in the high cities, and took out of them

### NOTES on Chap. III.

Ver. 1 *They sent ambassadors to him.* The prodigious strength of his army, and the horrid actions they had committed on the inhabitants of those countries who had op-

posed their progress, induced the others to sue for peace; and that their offers might be accepted, submitted themselves wholly to the mercy of the conqueror.

6 *Then came he down toward the sea-coast, &c.* The submissive manner in which the inhabitants received Holo-



them chosen men for aid.

7 So they and all the country round about received them with garlands, with dances, and with timbrels.

8 Yet he did cast down their frontiers, and cut down their groves: for he had decreed to destroy all the gods of the land, that all nations should worship Nabuchodonosor only, and that all tongues and tribes should call upon him as god.

9 Also he came over against Esdraelon near unto Judea, over against the great strait of Judea.

10 And he pitched between Geba and Scythopolis, and there he tarried a whole month, that he might gather together all the carriages of his army.

#### CHAP. IV.

4 *The Jews are afraid of Holofernes, 5 and fortify the hills. 6 They of Bethulia take charge of the passages. 9 All Israel fall to fasting and prayer.*

**N**OW the children of Israel that dwelt in Judea, heard all that Holofernes the chief captain of Nabuchodonosor king of the Assyrians had done to the nations, and after what manner he had spoiled all their temples, and brought them to nought.

2 Therefore they were exceedingly afraid of him, and were troubled for Jerusalem, and for the temple of the Lord their God:

3 For they were newly returned from the captivity, and all the people of Judea were lately gathered together: and the vessels and the altar, and the house were sanctified after the profanation.

4 Therefore they sent into all the coasts of Samaria, and the villages, and to Bethoron, and Belmen, and Jericho, and to Choba, and Esora, and to the valley of Salem.

5 And possessed themselves beforehand of all the tops of the high mountains, and fortified the villages that were in them, and laid up victuals for the provision of war: for their fields were of late reaped.

6 Also Joacim the high priest which was in those days in Jerusalem, wrote to them that dwelt in Bethulia, and Betomestham which is over against Esdraelon toward the open country, near to Dothaim,

7 Charging them to keep the passages of the hill-country: for by them there was an entrance into Judea, and it was easy to stop them that would come up, because the passage was strait for two men at the most.

8 And the children of Israel did as Joacim the high priest had commanded them, with the ancients of all the people of Israel, which dwelt at Jerusalem.

9 Then every man of Israel cried to God with great fervency, and with great vehemency

fernes, mitigated his wrath, and induced him to grant them the peace they desired; but he took the precaution of demolishing their fortifications, and strong holds, lest on his departure they should break the treaty, and join the enemy.

9 *Esdraelon.*] Or, Esdrelom.

*Near unto Judea.*] Junias reads, Dotea, Dothan. Gen. xxxviii. 17.

*Over against the great straight.*] Greek, Great saw.

#### NOTES on Chap. IV.

Ver. 1 *Now the children of Israel, &c.*] The descendants of Jacob, hearing of the terrible destruction of those countries through which the army of Holofernes had passed, and being desirous of preserving their liberty and religion, took possession of the freight passes of the mountains, the

only ways that led to their country, in order to stop the progress of the enemy, and preserve the temple at Jerusalem, so lately purified, from being destroyed and polluted by the hands of the heathen.

6 *Bethulia.*] The scripture mentions a place in the tribe of Simeon named Bethul, or Bethuel, Josh. xix. 4: a place dependent upon Gaza of the Philistines, and famous for its temple: it is highly probable that this was the place, since the other, which travellers mention in the tribe of Zebulun, must be of too modern a date to be the city intended here; because we find neither Joshua, Josephus, Eusebius, nor Jerome, make any mention of it.

*Toward the open country.*] Or, plain.

7 *The passage was strait for two men at the most.*] Margin, Two against all.

8 *The ancients.*] Or, governors.

mency did they humble their souls :

10 Both they, and their wives, and their children, and their cattle, and every stranger and hireling, and their servants, bought with money, put sackcloth upon their loins.

11 Thus every man and woman, and the little children, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the temple, and cast ashes upon their heads, and spread out their sackcloth before the face of the Lord : also they put sackcloth about the altar,

12 And cried to the God of Israel all with one consent earnestly, that he would not give their children for a prey, and their wives for a spoil, and the cities of their inheritance to destruction, and the sanctuary to profanation and reproach, and for the nations to rejoice at.

13 So God heard their prayers, and looked upon their afflictions : for the people fasted many days in all Judea and Jerusalem, before the sanctuary of the Lord Almighty.

14 And Joacim the high priest, and all the priests that stood before the Lord, and they which ministered unto the Lord, had their loins girt with sackcloth, and offered the daily burnt-offerings, with the vows and free-gifts of the people,

15 And had ashes on their mitres, and cried unto the Lord with all their power, that he would look upon all the house of Israel graciously.

#### C H A P. V.

5 *Achior telleth Holofernes what the Jews are, 8 and what their God had done for them : 21 and adviseth not to meddle with*

*them: 22 All that heard him were offended at him.*

**T**HEN was it declared to Holofernes the chief-captain of the army of Assur, that the children of Israel had prepared for war, and had shut up the passages of the hill-country, and had fortified all the tops of the high hills, and had laid impediments in the champian countries.

2 Wherewith he was very angry, and called all the princes of Moab, and the captains of Ammon, and all the governors of the sea-coast.

3 And he said unto them, Tell me now, ye sons of Chanaan, who this people is that dwelleth in the hill-country, and what are the cities that they inhabit, and what is the multitude of their army, and wherein is their power and strength, and what king is set over them, or captain of their army.

4 And why have they determined not to come and meet me, more than all the inhabitants of the west ?

5 Then said Achior the captain of all the sons of Ammon, Let my lord now hear a word from the mouth of thy servant, and I will declare unto thee the truth, concerning this people which dwelleth near thee, and inhabiteth the hill-countries : and there shall no lie come out of the mouth of thy servant.

6 This people are descended of the Chaldeans :

7 And they sojourned heretofore in Mesopotamia, because they would not follow the gods of their fathers, which were in the land of Chaldea.

8 For they left the way of their ancestors,

2 A

and

#### NOTES on Chap. V.

Ver. 1 *All the tops.*] Greek, All the top.

5 *Then said Achior, &c.*] See ch. vi. 5. & xi. 9. Achior, from his being a native of the country bordering on Canaan, was well acquainted with the government and religion of the Israelites. Their history was too singular to

be forgotten by the inhabitants of those kingdoms that lay near the inheritance of the sons of Jacob ; and the many miracles wrought by God in their favour too evident to be denied. Accordingly, Achior gave a concise account of them, and enumerated some of the facts in which the hand of Omnipotence had been remarkably conspicuous.



and worshipped the God of heaven, the God whom they knew: so they cast them out from the face of their gods, and they fled into Mesopotamia, and sojourned there many days.

9 Then their God commanded them to depart from the place where they sojourned, and to go into the land of Chanaan: where they dwelt, and where increased with gold and silver, and with very much cattle.

10 But when a famine covered all the land of Chanaan, they went down into Egypt, and sojourned there, while they were nourished, and became there a great multitude, so that one could not number their nation.

11 Therefore the king of Egypt rose up against them, and dealt subtilly with them, and brought them low, with labouring in brick, and made them slaves.

12 Then they cried unto their God, and he smote all the land of Egypt with incurable plagues: so the Egyptians cast them out of their sight.

13 And God dried the Red Sea before them,

14 And brought them to mount Sina, and Cades Barne, and cast forth all that dwelt in the wilderness.

15 So they dwelt in the land of the Amorites, and they destroyed by their strength all them of Efebon, and passing over Jordan they possessed all the hill-country.

16 And they cast forth before them, the Chanaanite, the Pherezite, the Jebusite, and the Sychemite, and all the Gergefites, and they dwelt in that country many days.

17 And whilst they sinned not before their God, they prospered, because the God that hateth iniquity was with them.

18 But when they departed from the

way which he appointed them, they were destroyed in many battles very sore, and were led captives into a land that was not theirs, and the temple of their God was cast to the ground, and their cities were taken by the enemies.

19 But now are they returned to their God, and are come up from the places where they were scattered, and have possessed Jerusalem, where their sanctuary is, and are seated in the hill-country; for it was desolate.

20 Now therefore, my lord and governor, if there be any error in this people, and they sin against their God, let us consider that this shall be their ruin, and let us go up, and we shall overcome them.

21 But if there be no iniquity in their nation, let my lord now pass by, lest their Lord defend them, and their God be for them, and we become a reproach before all the world.

22 And when Achior had finished these sayings, all the people standing round about the tent, murmured, and the chief men of Holofernes, and all that dwelt by the sea-side, and in Moab, spake that he should kill him.

23 For, *say they*, we will not be afraid of the face of the children of Israel: for lo, it is a people that have no strength, nor power for a strong battle.

24 Now therefore, lord Holofernes, we will go up, and they shall be a prey, to be devoured of all thine army.

#### C H A P. VI.

1 *Holofernes despiseth God: 7 He threateneth Achior, and sendeth him away. 14 The Bethulians receive and bear him: 18 They fall to prayer, and comfort Achior.*

A N D

14 *And brought them to mount Sina.]* Greek, Into the way of the wilderness of Sina.

19 *And are seated in the hill country.]* Or, have their

dwellings.

23 *For a strong battle.]* Margin, Against a mighty army.

**A**ND when the tumult of men that were about the council was ceased, Holofernes the chief captain of the army of Assur, said unto Achior and all the Moabites, before all the company of other nations,

2 And who art thou, Achior, and the hirelings of Ephraim, that thou hast prophesied amongst us as to day, and hast said, that we should not make war with the people of Israel, because their God will defend them? and who is God but Nabuchodonosor.

3 He will send his power, and will destroy them from the face of the earth, and their God shall not deliver them: but we his servants will destroy them as one man; for they are not able to sustain the power of our horses.

4 For with them we will tread them under foot, and their mountains shall be drunken with their blood, and their fields shall be filled with their dead bodies, and their foot-steps shall not be able to stand before us, for they shall utterly perish, saith king Nabuchodonosor, lord of all the earth; for he said, None of my words shall be in vain.

5 And thou, Achior, an hireling of Ammon, which hast spoken these words in the day of thine iniquity, shalt see my face no more from this day, until I take vengeance of this nation that came out of Egypt.

6 And then shall the sword of mine army, and the multitude of them that serve me, pass through thy sides, and thou shalt fall among their slain, when I return.

7 Now therefore my servants shall bring thee back into the hill-country, and shall set thee in one of the cities of the passages.

8 And thou shalt not perish, till thou be destroyed with them.

9 And if thou persuade thyself in thy mind, that they shall not be taken, let not thy countenance fall: I have spoken it, and none of my words shall be in vain.

10 Then Holofernes commanded his servants that waited in his tent, to take Achior, and bring him to Bethulia, and deliver him into the hands of the children of Israel.

11 So his servants took him, and brought him out of the camp into the plain, and they went from the midst of the plain into the hill-country, and came unto the fountains that were under Bethulia.

12 And when the men of the city saw them, they took up their weapons, and went out of the city to the top of the hill: and every man that used a sling, kept them from coming up, by casting of stones against them.

13 Nevertheless, having gotten privily under the hill, they bound Achior, and cast him down, and left him at the foot of the hill, and returned to their lord.

14 But the Israelites descended from their city, and came unto him, and loosed him, and brought him into Bethulia, and presented him to the governors of the city:

15 Which were in those days, Ozias the son of Micha, of the tribe of Simeon, and Chabris the son of Gothoniell, and Charmis the son of Melchiel.

16 And they called together all the ancients of the city, and all their youth ran together, and their women to the assembly, and they set Achior in the midst of all their people. Then Ozias asked him of that which was done.

17 And

#### NOTES on Chap. VI.

Ver. 14. *The Israelites descended from their city, &c.* Achior being left by the Assyrians, the inhabitants of

Bethulia took him, and presented him to the governors of the city, who received him with joy, and promised him protection.



17 And he answered and declared unto them the words of the counsel of Holofernes, and all the words that he had spoken in the midst of the princes of Assur, and whatsoever Holofernes had spoken proudly against the house of Israel.

18 Then the people fell down and worshipped God, and cried unto God, saying,

19 O Lord God of heaven, behold their pride, and pity the low estate of our nation, and look upon the face of those that are sanctified unto thee this day.

20 Then they comforted Achior, and praised him greatly.

21 And Ozias took him out of the assembly unto his house, and made a feast to the elders, and they called on the God of Israel all that night for help.

#### C H A P. VII.

1 *Holofernes besieges Bethulia, 7 and stoppeth the water from them. 22 They faint, and murmur against the governors, 30 who promise to yield within five days.*

**T**HE next day Holofernes commanded all his army, and all his people which were come to take his part, that they should remove their camp against Bethulia, to take aforehand the ascents of the hill-country, and to make war against the children of Israel.

2 Then their strong men removed their camps in that day, and the army of the men of war was an hundred and seventy thousand footmen, and twelve thousand horsemen, besides the baggage, and other men that were afoot amongst them, a very great multitude.

3 And they camped in the valley near unto Bethulia, by the fountain, and they

spread themselves in breadth over Dothaim, even to Belmaim, and in length from Bethulia unto Cyamon, which is over against Efdraelom.

4 Now the children of Israel, when they saw the multitude of them, were greatly troubled, and said every one to his neighbour, Now will these men lick up the face of the earth: for neither the high mountains, nor the valleys, nor the hills are able to bear their weight.

5 Then every man took up his weapons of war, and when they had kindled fires upon their towers, they remained and watched all that night.

6 But in the second day, Holofernes brought forth all his horsemen, in the fight of the children of Israel which were in Bethulia.

7 And viewed the passages up to the city, and came to the fountains of their waters, and took them, and set garrisons of men of war over them, and he himself removed towards his people.

8 Then came unto him all the chief of the children of Esau, and all the governors of the people of Moab, and the captains of the sea-coast, and said,

9 Let our lord now hear a word, that there be not an overthrow in thine army.

10 For this people of the children of Israel do not trust in their spears, but in the height of the mountains wherein they dwell, because it is not easy to come up to the tops of their mountains.

11 Now therefore, my lord, fight not against them in battle array, and there shall not so much as one man of thy people perish.

12 Remain

#### NOTES on Chap. VII.

Ver. 1 *The next day Holofernes commanded, &c.*] Holofernes now moved against Bethulia, and in order to terrify the inhabitants, caused his army to be drawn up in their sight. This had the desired effect; the inhabitants were struck with the greatest terror at the sight of so prodigious a mul-

titude. But he should have remembered, that tho' he could by his numbers terrify men, yet, *he that sitteth on the heavens* was able to defeat all his schemes, and confound his numerous army.

3 *Over Dothaim.*] Or, from Dothaim. Junius. *Unto Cyamon.*] The Greek reads, Bean-field.

12 Remain in thy camp, and keep all the men of thine army, and let thy servants get into their hands the fountain of water, which issueth forth of the foot of the mountain:

13 (For all the inhabitants of Bethulia have their water thence) so shall thirst kill them, and they shall give up their city, and we and our people shall go up to the tops of the mountains that are near, and will camp upon them, to watch that none go out of the city.

14 So they and their wives and their children shall be consumed with famine, and before the sword come against them, they shall be overthrown in the streets where they dwell.

15 Thus shalt thou render them an evil reward: because they rebelled, and met not thy person peaceably.

16 And these words pleased Holofernes, and all his servants, and he appointed to do as they had spoken.

17 So the camp of the children of Ammon departed, and with them five thousand of the Assyrians, and they pitched in the valley, and took the waters, and the fountains of the waters of the children of Israel.

18 Then the children of Esau went up with the children of Ammon, and camped in the hill-country over against Dothaim: and they sent some of them toward the south, and toward the east, over against Ekrebel, which is near unto Chusi, that is upon the brook Mochmur; and the rest of the army of the Assyrians camped in the plain and covered the face of the whole land; and their tents and carriages were

pitched to a very great multitude.

19 Then the children of Israel cried unto the Lord their God, because their heart failed, for all their enemies had compassed them round about, and there was no way to escape out from among them.

20 Thus all the company of Assur remained about them, both their footmen, chariots, and horsemen, four and thirty days, so that all their vessels of water failed all the inhabitants of Bethulia.

21 And the cisterns were emptied, and they had not water to drink their fill for one day; for they gave them drink by measure.

22 Therefore their young children were out of heart, and their women and young men fainted for thirst, and fell down in the streets of the city, and by the passages of the gates, and there was no longer any strength in them.

23 Then all the people assembled to Ozias, and to the chief of the city, both young men and women, and children, and cried with a loud voice, and said before all the elders,

24 God be a judge between us and you: for you have done us great injury, in that you have not required peace of the children of Assur.

25 For now we have no helper: but God hath sold us into their hands, that we should be thrown down before them with thirst and great destruction.

26 Now therefore call them unto you, and deliver the whole city for a spoil to the people of Holofernes, and to all his army.

27 For it is better for us to be made a spoil unto them, than to die for thirst: for we will be his servants, that our souls may

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live,

19 *Then the children of Israel cried unto the Lord their God, &c.*] The Israelites well knew that they were of themselves unable to oppose so great a multitude, and therefore applied for help to him that was able to save; to that tremendous Being, who had so often preserved their fathers

from destruction, and would always have rendered the designs of their enemies abortive, had they been careful to observe his laws, and worship him in spirit and in truth.

21 *The cisterns.*] Margin reads, Pits.



live, and not see the death of our infants before our eyes; nor our wives, nor our children to die.

28 We take to witness against you, the heaven and the earth, and our God, and Lord of our fathers, which punisheth us according to our sins, and the sins of our fathers, that he do not according as we have said this day.

29 Then there was great weeping with one consent in the midst of the assembly, and they cried unto the Lord God with a loud voice.

30 Then said Ozias to them, Brethren, be of good courage, let us yet endure five days, in the which space the Lord our God may turn his mercy towards us; for he will not forsake us utterly.

31 And if these days pass, and there come no help unto us, I will do according to your word.

32 And he dispersed the people every one to their own charge; and they went unto the walls and towers of their city, and sent the women and children into their houses: and they were very low brought in the city.

#### C H A P. VIII.

1 *The state and behaviour of Judith a widow:*

12 *She blameth the governors for their promise to yield, 17 and adviseth them to trust in God. 28 They excuse their promise: 32 She promiseth to do something for them.*

**N**OW at that time Judith heard thereof, which was the daughter of Merari, the son of Ox, the son of Joseph, the son of Oziel, the son of Elcia, the son of Ananias, the son of Gedeon, the son of Raphaim, the son of Acitho, the son of Eliu, the son of Eliab, the son of Natha-

nael, the son of Samael, the son of Saladai, the son of Israel.

2 And Manasses was her husband of her tribe and kindred, who died in the barley-harvest.

3 For as he stood overseeing them that bound sheaves in the field, the heat came upon his head, and he fell on his bed, and died in the city of Bethulia, and they buried him with his fathers in the field between Dothaim and Balamo.

4 So Judith was a widow in her house three years and four months.

5 And she made her a tent upon the top of her house, and put on sackcloth upon her loins, and ware her widow's apparel.

6 And she fasted all the days of her widowhood, save the eves of the sabbaths, and the sabbaths, and the eves of the new-moons, and the new-moons, and the feasts and solemn days of the house of Israel.

7 She was also of a goodly countenance, and very beautiful to behold: and her husband Manasses had left her gold, and silver, and men-servants, and maid-servants, and cattle, and lands, and she remained upon them.

8 And there was none that gave her an ill-word; for she feared God greatly.

9 Now when she heard the evil words of the people against the governor, that they fainted for lack of water (for Judith had heard all the words that Ozias had spoken unto them, and that he had sworn to deliver the city unto the Assyrians after five days)

10 Then she sent her waiting-woman that had the government of all things that she had, to call Ozias, and Chabris, and Charmis, the ancients of the city.

11 And

28 *That he do not.*] Margin, Lest he do, meaning Ho-lofernes.

NOTES on Chap. VII.

Ver. 1 *The son of Samael.*] Or, Samaliel.

7 *And she remained upon them.*] Margin, She kept them.

11 And they came unto her, and she said unto them, Hear me now, O ye governors of the inhabitants of Bethulia: for your words that you have spoken before the people this day are not right, touching this oath which ye made, and pronounced between God and you, and have promised to deliver the city to our enemies, unless within these days the Lord turn to help you.

12 And now, who are you that have tempted God this day, and stand in stead of God amongst the children of men?

13 And now try the Lord Almighty, but you shall never know any thing.

14 For you cannot find the depth of the heart of man, neither can ye perceive the things that he thinketh: then how can you search out God, that hath made all these things, and know his mind, or comprehend his purpose? Nay, my brethren, provoke not the Lord our God to anger.

15 For if he will not help us within these five days, he hath power to defend us when he will, even every day, or to destroy us before our enemies.

16 Do not bind the counsels of the Lord our God: for God is not as man, that he may be threatened: neither is he as the son of man that he should be wavering.

17 Therefore let us wait for salvation of him, and call upon him to help us, and he will hear our voice if it please him.

18 For there arose none in our age, neither is there any now in these days, neither tribe, nor family, nor people, nor city among us, which worship gods made with hands, as hath been aforetime.

19 For the which cause our fathers were given to the sword, and for a spoil,

and had a great fall before our enemies.

20 But we know none other God, therefore we trust that he will not despise us, nor any of our nation.

21 For if we be taken so, all Judea shall lie waste, and our sanctuary shall be spoiled, and he will require the profanation thereof at our mouth.

22 And the slaughter of our brethren, and the captivity of the country, and the desolation of our inheritance, will he turn upon our heads among the Gentiles, wherefoever we shall be in bondage, and we shall be an offence, and a reproach to all them that possess us.

23 For our servitude shall not be directed to favour: but the Lord our God shall turn it to dishonour.

24 Now therefore, O brethren, let us shew an example to our brethren, because their hearts depend upon us, and the sanctuary, and the house, and the altar rest upon us.

25 Moreover, let us give thanks to the Lord our God, which trieth us, even as he did our fathers.

26 Remember what things he did to Abraham, and how he tried Isaac, and what happened to Jacob in Mesopotamia of Syria, when he kept the sheep of Laban his mother's brother.

27 For he hath not tried us in the fire, as he did them, for the examination of their hearts, neither hath he taken vengeance on us: but the Lord doth scourge them that come near unto him, to admonish them.

28 Then said Ozias to her, All that thou hast spoken, hast thou spoken with a good heart,

11 *Hear me now, O ye governors of the inhabitants of Bethulia, &c.]* Judith here exostulates with the governors of the city, for the rash promise they had made to the people, of delivering Bethulia to the enemy in five days, if they were not relieved. She justly told them, that they ought

to have relied on the Lord their God, and waited their deliverance from his hand.

16 *Do not bind the counsels, &c.]* Margin, Engage.

18 *Nor people:]* Margin, Nor town.

22 *And the slaughter, &c.]* Margin reads, Bear.



heart, and there is none that may gainsay thy words.

29 For this is not the first day wherein thy wisdom is manifested; but from the beginning of thy days, all the people have known thy understanding, because the disposition of thine heart is good.

30 But the people were very thirsty, and compelled us to do unto them as we have spoken, and to bring an oath upon ourselves, which we will not break.

31 Therefore now pray thou for us, because thou art a godly woman, and the Lord will send us rain to fill our cisterns, and we shall faint no more.

32 Then said Judith unto them, Hear me, and I will do a thing which shall go throughout all generations, to the children of our nation.

33 You shall stand this night in the gate, and I will go forth with my waiting-woman: and within the days that you have promised to deliver the city to our enemies, the Lord will visit Israel by mine hand.

34 But enquire not you of mine act: for I will not declare it unto you, till the things be finished that I do.

35 Then said Ozias and the princes unto her, Go in peace, and the Lord God be before thee, to take vengeance on our enemies.

36 So they returned from the tent, and went to their wards.

#### C H A P. IX.

1 *Judith humbleth herself, and prayeth God to prosper her purpose against the enemies of his sanctuary.*

**T**HEN Judith fell upon her face, and put ashes upon her head, and uncovered the sackcloth wherewith she was clothed; and about the time that the incense of that evening was offered in Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, Judith cried with a loud voice, and said,

2 O Lord God of my father Simeon, to whom thou gavest a sword to take vengeance of the strangers, who loosened the girdle of a maid to defile her, and discovered the thigh to her shame, and polluted her virginity to her reproach (for thou saidst, It shall not be so, and yet they did so)

3 Wherefore thou gavest their rulers to be slain, so that they died their bed in blood, being deceived, and smoteest the servants with their lords, and the lords upon their thrones;

4 And hast given their wives for a prey, and their daughters to be captives, and all their spoils to be divided amongst thy dear children; which were moved with thy zeal, and abhorred the pollution of their blood, and called upon thee for aid: O God, O my God, hear me also a widow.

5 For thou hast wrought not only those things, but also the things which fell out before, and which ensued after; thou hast thought upon the things which are now, and which are to come.

6 Yea, what things thou didst determine were ready at hand, and said, Lo, we are here: for all thy ways are prepared, and thy judgments are in thy foreknowledge.

7 For behold, the Assyrians are multiplied in their power; they are exalted with horse and man; they glory in the strength of

32 *Hear me, and I will do a thing, &c.]* After telling them their fault in not relying on the Lord for help, she declared, that she would herself undertake the deliverance of the city; but at the same time enjoined them not to ask, or endeavour to discover, the manner in which she proposed to perform it, being determined to keep the secret inviolable in her own breast.

#### NOTES ON CHAP. IX.

Ver. 1 *Then Judith fell upon her face, &c.]* Before Judith entered on this important action, she prostrated herself before God, and implored from him that assistance which she well knew could not be expected from man.

of their footmen; they trust in shield and spear, and bow and sling; and know not that thou art the Lord that breakest the battles: the Lord is thy name.

8 Throw down their strength in thy power, and bring down their force in thy wrath: for they have purposed to defile thy sanctuary, and to pollute the tabernacle, where thy glorious name resteth, and to cast down with sword the horn of thy altar.

9 Behold their pride, and send thy wrath upon their heads: give into mine hand, which am a widow, the power that I have conceived.

10 Smite by the deceit of my lips the servant with the prince, and the prince with the servant: break down their stateliness by the hand of a woman.

11 For thy power standeth not in multitude, nor thy might in strong men: for thou art a God of the afflicted, an helper of the oppressed, an upholder of the weak, a protector of the forlorn, a saviour of them that are without hope.

12 I pray thee, I pray thee, O God of my father, and God of the inheritance of Israel, Lord of the heavens and earth, Creator of the waters, King of every creature, hear thou my prayer:

13 And make my speech and deceit to be their wound and stripe, who have purposed cruel things against thy covenant, and thy hallowed house, and against the top of Sion, and against the house of the possession of thy children.

14 And make every nation and tribe to acknowledge that thou art the God of all power and might, and that there is none

other that protecteth the people of Israel but thou.

## CHAP. X.

3 *Judith doth set forth herself: 10 She and her maid go forth into the camp: 17 The watch take and conduct her to Holofernes.*

**N**OW after that she had ceased to cry unto the God of Israel, and had made an end of all these words,

2 She rose where she had fallen down, and called her maid, and went down into the house, in the which she abode in the sabbath-days, and in her feast-days,

3 And pulled off the sackcloth which she had on, and put off the garments of her widowhood, and washed her body all over with water, and anointed herself with precious ointment, and braided the hair of her head, and put on a tire upon it, and put on her garments of gladness, wherewith she was clad during the life of Manasses her husband.

4 And she took sandals upon her feet, and put about her her bracelets, and her chains, and her rings, and her ear-rings, and all her ornaments, and decked herself bravely, to allure the eyes of all men that should see her.

5 Then she gave her maid a bottle of wine, and a cruse of oil, and filled a bag with parched corn, and lumps of figs, and with fine bread; so she folded all these things together, and laid them upon her.

6 Thus they went forth to the gate of the city of Bethulia, and found standing there Ozias, and the ancients of the city, Chabris, and Charmis.

7 And when they saw her, that her countenance

2 C

11 *Thy power standeth not in multitude, &c.]* Thou, O worship of Israel, hast no occasion for the arm of flesh; before thee, the multitude of an host, and all the instruments of war, are vain. It is to thee the afflicted fly for succour, and the weak for defence, against the tyranny of man. Hear therefore, O Almighty God of Jacob, the prayer of

thy servant, and protect thine inheritance from the hands of strangers, and prevent thine holy temple from being defiled by the pollutions of the heathen.

## NOTES on Chap. X.

Ver. 3. *Put on a tire.]* Greek, Mitre.



tenance was altered, and her apparel was changed, they wondered at her beauty very greatly, and said unto her,

8 The God, the God of our fathers give thee favour, and accomplish thine enterprizes to the glory of the children of Israel, and to the exaltation of Jerusalem: then they worshipped God.

9 And she said unto them, Command the gates of the city to be opened unto me, that I may go forth to accomplish the things whereof you have spoken with me: so they commanded the young men to open unto her, as she had spoken.

10 And when they had done so, Judith went out, she and her maid with her, and the men of the city looked after her, until she was gone down the mountain, and till she had passed the valley, and could see her no more.

11 Thus they went straight forth in the valley: and the first watch of the Assyrians met her;

12 And took her, and asked her, Of what people art thou? and whence comest thou? and whither goest thou? And she said, I am a woman of the Hebrews, and am fled from them: for they shall be given you to be consumed:

13 And I am coming before Holofernes the chief captain of your army, to declare words of truth, and I will shew him a way whereby he shall go, and win all the hill-country, without losing the body or life of any one of his men.

14 Now when the men heard her words, and beheld her countenance, they wondered greatly at her beauty, and said unto her,

15 Thou hast saved thy life, in that thou hast hastened to come down to the presence of our lord: now therefore come to his tent, and some of us shall conduct thee, until they have delivered thee to his hand.

16 And when thou standest before him, be not afraid in thine heart, but shew unto him according to thy word, and he will intreat thee well.

17 Then they chose out of them an hundred men, to accompany her, and her maid, and they brought her to the tent of Holofernes.

18 Then was there a concourse throughout all the camp: for her coming was noised among the tents, and they came about her, as she stood without the tent of Holofernes, till they told him of her.

19 And they wondered at her beauty, and admired the children of Israel because of her, and every one said to his neighbour, Who would despise this people, that have among them such women? surely it is not good that one man of them be left, who being let go, might deceive the whole earth.

20 And they that lay near Holofernes, went out, and all his servants, and they brought her into the tent.

21 Now Holofernes rested upon his bed under a canopy which was woven with purple, and gold, and emeralds, and precious stones.

22 So they shewed him of her, and he came out before his tent, with silver lamps going before him.

23 And when Judith was come before him and his servants, they all marvelled at the beauty of her countenance; and she fell

10 *Her maid.*] The word in ancient translations which we render *maid*, is *Abra*, which signifies a companion, or maid of honour, rather than a servant; for the same word in the Septuagint is applied to the women that attended Pharaoh's daughter, Exod. ii. 5, and also to those that waited upon Esther, ch. iv. 4.

11 *They went straight forth into the valley, &c.*] The city

of Bethulia was situated on the top of a mountain, and the host of the Assyrians were encamped in the valleys below; so that Judith and her attendant soon reached the advanced guards of the enemy, who were stationed at the very foot of the mount.

17 *To accompany her and her maid*] Margin reads, And they prepared a chariot for her.

fell down upon her face, and did reverence unto him: and his servants took her up.

### CHAP. XI.

3 *Holofernes asketh Judith the cause of her coming: 6 She telleth him how and when he may prevail: 20 He is much pleased with her wisdom and beauty.*

**T**HEN said Holofernes unto her, Woman, be of good comfort, fear not in thine heart: for I never hurt any that was willing to serve Nabuchodonosor, the king of all the earth.

2 Now therefore, if thy people that dwelleth in the mountains had not set light by me, I would not have lifted up my spear against them: but they have done these things to themselves.

3 But now tell me wherefore thou art fled from them, and art come unto us: for thou art come for safeguard; be of good comfort, thou shalt live this night, and hereafter.

4 For none shall hurt thee, but intreat thee well, as they do the servants of king Nabuchodonosor my lord.

5 Then Judith said unto him, Receive the words of thy servant, and suffer thine handmaid to speak in thy presence, and I will declare no lie to my lord this night.

6 And if thou wilt follow the words of thine handmaid, God will bring the thing perfectly to pass by thee, and my lord shall not fail of his purposes.

7 As Nabuchodonosor king of all the earth liveth, and as his power liveth, who

hath sent thee for the upholding of every living thing: for not only men shall serve him by thee, but also the beasts of the field, and the cattle, and the fowls of the air shall live by thy power, under Nabuchodonosor and all his house.

8 For we have heard of thy wisdom, and thy policies, and it is reported in all the earth, that thou only art excellent in all the kingdom, and mighty in knowledge, and wonderful in feats of war.

9 Now as concerning the matter which Achior did speak in thy council, we have heard his words; for the men of Bethulia saved him, and he declared unto them all that he had spoken unto thee.

10 Therefore, O lord and governor, reject not his word; but lay it up in thine heart, for it is true: for our nation shall not be punished, neither can the sword prevail against them, except they sin against their God.

11 And now, that my lord be not defeated, and frustrate of his purpose, even death is now fallen upon them, and their sin hath overtaken them, wherewith they will provoke their God to anger, whensoever they shall do that which is not fit to be done:

12 For their victuals fail them, and all their water is scant, and they have determined to lay hands upon their cattle, and purposed to consume all those things that God hath forbidden them to eat by his laws:

13 And

### NOTES ON Chap. XI.

Ver. 1 *Then said Holofernes unto her, &c.*] The general of Nabuchodonosor was charmed with the beauty of Judith, and encouraged her to tell him the reason of her coming; at the same time assuring her that she had nothing to fear in the Assyrian camp; for orders should be given for treating her in all respects as if she had been a subject of his lord, and not like a captive.

8 *Thou only art excellent.*] Margin, In favour.

9 *As concerning the matter which Achior did speak, &c.*]

Judith confirms what Achior had before told Holofernes, namely, that the Jews could not be conquered unless they forsook the God of their fathers: but added, that they would soon lay their hands on the things dedicated to God, who would then forsake them, and they would fall an easy prey to his victorious army.

*The men of Bethulia saved him.*] Margin, Gave him.

*Shall not so much as open his mouth.*] Or, bark.

*These things were told me.*] Margin, These things have I spoken.



13 And are resolved to spend the first fruits of the corn, and the tenths of wine and oil, which they had sanctified and reserved for the priests that serve in Jerusalem, before the face of our God, the which things it is not lawful for any of the people so much as to touch with their hands.

14 For they have sent some to Jerusalem, because they also that dwell there have done the like, to bring them a licence from the senate.

15 Now when they shall bring them word, they will forthwith do it, and they shall be given thee to be destroyed the same day.

16 Wherefore I thine handmaid knowing all this, am fled from their presence, and God hath sent me to work things with thee, whereat all the earth shall be astonished, and whosoever shall hear it.

17 For thy servant is religious, and serveth the God of heaven day and night: now therefore, my lord, I will remain with thee, and thy servant will go out by night into the valley, and I will pray unto God, and he will tell me when they have committed their sins:

18 And I will come and shew it unto thee: then thou shalt go forth with all thine army, and there shall be none of them that shall resist thee.

19 And I will lead thee through the midst of Judea, until thou come before Jerusalem, and I will set thy throne in the midst thereof, and thou shalt drive them as sheep that have no shepherd, and a dog shall not so much as open his mouth at thee: for these things were told me according to my foreknowledge, and they were declared

unto me, and I am sent to tell thee.

20 Then her words pleased Holofernes, and all his servants, and they marvelled at her wisdom, and said,

21 There is not such a woman from one end of the earth to the other, both for beauty of face, and wisdom of words.

22 Likewise Holofernes said unto her, God hath done well to send thee before the people, that strength might be in our hands, and destruction upon them that lightly regard my lord.

23 And now thou art both beautiful in thy countenance, and witty in thy words: surely if thou do as thou hast spoken, thy God shall be my God, and thou shalt dwell in the house of king Nabuchodonosor, and shalt be renowned through the whole earth.

## CHAP. XII.

2 *Judith will not eat of Holofernes meat: 7 She tarried three days in the camp, and every night went forth to pray. 13 Bagoas moveth her to be merry with Holofernes, 20 who for joy of her company drank much.*

**T**HEN he commanded to bring her in, where his plate was set, and bade that they should prepare for her of his own meats, and that she should drink of his own wine.

2 And Judith said, I will not eat thereof, lest there be an offence: but provision shall be made for me of the things that I have brought.

3 Then Holofernes said unto her, If thy provision should fail, how should we give thee the like? for there be none with us of thy nation.

4 Then

## NOTES ON Chap. XII.

Ver 2 *I will not eat thereof, &c.*] There was no law that prohibited the Jews from eating several things that the Gentiles made use of; bread, wine, fruit, and the like, were allowed them in common with other people: but

either some tradition then prevailing among the Jews, or some religious vow that Judith might have bound herself under, probably hindered her from accepting the offer made her by the general, of provisions from his table.

13 And are resolved to give the first fruits of the corn and the tenth of the oil, which they had sanctified and reserved for the priests that serve in Jerusalem before the face of our God the Father, it is not lawful for any of the people to touch as to touch with the hand.

14 For they have said, that because they dwell in the land, and have none the like, adding them a decree from the Senate.

15 Now when they heard these words, they were wroth, and said, that shall be given to them, that they have given to the priests, and they shall have it.

16 Wherefore I have commanded you, saying all this, and have commanded you, and God shall be true to work the words, which I have said, and which shall be fulfilled.

17 For the God of Israel, and the God of the Jews, and the God of the Gentiles, and the God of the whole world, will be true to the words, which I have said, and which shall be fulfilled.

18 And I have said, and which shall be fulfilled, that the Lord God of Israel, and the God of the Jews, and the God of the Gentiles, and the God of the whole world, will be true to the words, which I have said, and which shall be fulfilled.

19 And I have said, and which shall be fulfilled, that the Lord God of Israel, and the God of the Jews, and the God of the Gentiles, and the God of the whole world, will be true to the words, which I have said, and which shall be fulfilled.



Judith and  
Holofernes.



*She smote twice upon his Neck, with all her  
Might, & she took away his Head from him, and  
tumbled his Body down from the Bed. Judith XIII.*

4 Then said Judith unto him, As thy soul liveth, my lord, thine handmaid shall not spend those things that I have, before the Lord work by mine hand, the things that he hath determined.

5 Then the servants of Holofernes brought her unto the tent, and she slept till midnight, and she arose when it was towards the morning watch,

6 And sent to Holofernes, saying, Let my lord now command, that thine handmaid may go forth unto prayer.

7 Then Holofernes commanded his guard, that they should not stay her: thus she abode in the camp three days, and went out in the night into the valley of Bethulia, and washed herself in a fountain of water by the camp.

8 And when she came out, she besought the Lord God of Israel to direct her way to the raising up of the children of her people.

9 So she came in clean, and remained in the tent, until she did eat her meat at evening.

10 And in the fourth day Holofernes made a feast to his own servants only, and called none of the officers to the banquet.

11 Then said he to Bagoas the eunuch, who had charge over all that he had, Go now, and persuade this Hebrew woman which is with thee, that she come unto us, and eat and drink with us.

12 For lo, it will be a shame for our person, if we shall let such a woman go, not having had her company: for if we draw her not unto us, she will laugh us to scorn.

13 Then went Bagoas from the presence of Holofernes, and came to her, and he said, Let not this fair damsel fear to come

to my lord, and to be honoured in his presence, and drink wine, and be merry with us, and be made this day as one of the daughters of the Assyrians, which serve in the house of Nabuchodonosor.

14 Then said Judith unto him, Who am I now, that I should gainsay my lord? surely whatsoever pleaseth him, I will do speedily, and it shall be my joy unto the day of my death.

15 So she arose, and decked herself with her apparel, and all her woman's attire, and her maid went and laid soft skins on the ground for her, over against Holofernes, which she had received of Bagoas for her daily use, that she might sit, and eat upon them.

16 Now when Judith came in, and sat down, Holofernes his heart was ravished with her, and his mind was moved, and he desired greatly her company; for he waited a time to deceive her, from the day that he had seen her.

17 Then said Holofernes unto her, Drink now, and be merry with us.

18 So Judith said, I will drink now, my lord, because my life is magnified in me this day, more than all the days since I was born.

19 Then she took and ate and drank before him what her maid had prepared.

20 And Holofernes took great delight in her, and drank much more wine than he had drunk at any time in one day, since he was born.

#### C H A P. XIII.

2 Judith is left alone with Holofernes in his tent: 4 She prayeth God to give her strength: 7 She cutteth off his head while he slept, 10 and returneth with it to Bethulia: 2 D

7 *Went out in the night into the valley, &c* } As prayer is best performed in places of retirement, Judith had a good pretence to request of the general the liberty of retiring out of the camp to perform her devotions, which she foresaw

would be a means to favour her escape, after she had executed the design for which she left her city, and ventured to put herself into the enemy's hand.



*Bethulia:* 17 They saw it, and commend her.

**N**OW when the evening was come, his servants made haste to depart, and Bagoas shut his tent without, and dismissed the waiters from the presence of his lord, and they went to their beds: for they were all weary, because the feast had been long.

2 And Judith was left alone in the tent, and Holofernes lying along upon his bed: for he was filled with wine.

3 Now Judith had commanded her maid to stand without her bed-chamber, and to wait for her coming forth, as she did daily; for she said she would go forth to her prayers, and she spake to Bagoas according to the same purpose.

4 So all went forth, and none was left in the bed-chamber, neither little nor great. Then Judith standing by his bed, said in her heart, O Lord God of all power, look at this present upon the works of mine hands for the exaltation of Jerusalem.

5 For now is the time to help thine inheritance, and to execute mine enterprizes, to the destruction of the enemies which are risen against us.

6 Then she came to the pillar of the bed which was at Holofernes head, and took down his saucion from thence,

7 And approached to his bed, and took hold of the hair of his head, and said, Strengthen me, O Lord God of Israel, this day.

8 And she smote twice upon his neck with all her might, and she took away his head from him,

9 And tumbled his body down from

the bed, and pulled down the canopy from the pillars, and anon after she went forth, and gave Holofernes his head to her maid:

10 And she put it in her bag of meat: so they twain went together according to their custom, unto prayer: and when they passed the camp, they compassed the valley, and went up the mountain of Bethulia, and came to the gates thereof.

11 Then said Judith afar off to the watchmen at the gate, Open, open now the gate: God, even our God, is with us, to shew his power yet in Jerusalem, and his forces against the enemy, as he hath even done this day.

12 Now when the men of her city heard her voice, they made haste to go down to the gate of their city, and they called the elders of the city.

13 And then they ran altogether both small and great, for it was strange unto them that she was come: so they opened the gate, and received them, and made a fire for a light, and stood round about them.

14 Then she said to them with a loud voice, Praise, praise God, praise God (I say) for he hath not taken away his mercy from the house of Israel, but hath destroyed our enemies by mine hands this night.

15 So she took the head out of the bag, and shewed it, and said unto them, Behold, the head of Holofernes, the chief captain of the army of Assur, and behold the canopy wherein he did lie in his drunkenness: and the Lord hath smitten him by the hand of a woman.

16 As the Lord liveth, who hath kept me

#### NOTES on Chap. XIII.

Ver. 3 *Judith had commanded her maid, &c.* It does not appear from the history, that the maid knew any thing of Judith's design, and even the last night, when the ac-

tion was performed, she seems only to have waited the return of her mistress, in order to their going into the valley to perform their accustomed devotions. Indeed, a scheme of this kind required the greatest secrecy; and therefore Judith wisely determined to keep it concealed.

me in my way that I went, my countenance hath deceived him to his destruction, and yet hath he not committed sin with me to defile and shame me.

17 Then all the people were wonderfully astonished, and bowed themselves, and worshipped God, and said with one accord, Blessed be thou, O our God, which hast this day brought to nought the enemies of thy people.

18 Then said Ozias unto her, O daughter, Blessed art thou of the most high God, above all the women upon the earth; and blessed be the Lord God, which hath created the heavens and the earth, which hath directed thee to the cutting off of the head of the chief of our enemies.

19 For this thy confidence shall not depart from the heart of men, which remember the power of God for ever.

20 And God turn these things to thee for a perpetual praise, to visit thee in good things, because thou hast not spared thy life for the affliction of our nation, but hast revenged our ruin, walking a straight way before our God. And all the people said, So be it, so be it.

#### C H A P. XIV.

8 *Achior beareth Judith shew what she had done, and is circumcised.* 11 *The head of Holofernes is hanged up.* 15 *He is found dead, and much lamented.*

**T**HEN said Judith unto them, Hear me now, my brethren, and take this head, and hang it upon the highest place of your walls.

2 And so soon as the morning shall appear, and the sun shall come forth upon

the earth, take you every one his weapons, and go forth every valiant man out of the city, and set you a captain over them, as though you would go down into the field toward the watch of the Assyrians, but go not down.

3 Then they shall take their armour, and shall go into their camp, and raise up the captains of the army of Assur, and they shall run to the tent of Holofernes, but shall not find him: then fear shall fall upon them, and they shall flee before your face.

4 So you, and all that inhabit the coast of Israel, shall pursue them, and overthrow them as they go.

5 But before you do these things, call me Achior the Ammonite, that he may see and know him that despised the house of Israel, and that sent him to us as it were to his death.

6 Then they called Achior out of the house of Ozias; and when he was come and saw the head of Holofernes in a man's hand in the assembly of the people, he fell down on his face, and his spirit failed.

7 But when they had recovered him, he fell at Judith's feet, and revered her, and said, Blessed art thou in all the tabernacle of Juda, and in all nations, which hearing thy name shall be astonished.

8 Now therefore tell me all the things that thou hast done in these days. Then Judith declared unto him in the midst of the people, all that she had done from the day that she went forth until that hour she spake unto them.

9 And when she had left off speaking, the people shouted with a loud voice, and made a joyful noise in their city.

10 And

#### NOTES ON Chap. XIV.

Ver. 1 *Hear me now, my brethren, &c.* Judith, well knowing the consternation into which the sudden death of

Holofernes would throw the Assyrian army, advised the Bethulians to take advantage of it, arm themselves, and pursue and destroy these invaders of their country.



10 And when Achior had seen all that the God of Israel had done, he believed in God greatly, and circumcised the flesh of his fore-skin, and was joined unto the house of Israel unto this day.

11 And as soon as the morning arose, they hanged the head of Holofernes upon the wall, and every man took his weapons, and they went forth by bands unto the straits of the mountain.

12 But when the Assyrians saw them, they sent to their leaders which came to their captains, and tribunes, and to every one of their rulers.

13 So they came to Holofernes tent, and said to him that had the charge of all his things, Waken now our lord : for the slaves have been bold to come down against us to battle, that they may be utterly destroyed.

14 Then went in Bagoas, and knocked at the door of the tent, for he thought that he had slept with Judith.

15 But because none answered, he opened it, and went into the bed-chamber, and found him cast upon the floor dead, and his head was taken from him.

16 Therefore he cried with a loud voice, with weeping, and sighing, and a mighty cry, and rent his garments.

17 After he went into the tent where Judith lodged : and when he found her not, he leaped out to the people and cried,

18 These slaves have dealt treacherously, one woman of the Hebrews hath brought shame upon the house of king Nabuchodonosor : for behold, Holofernes *lieth* upon

the ground without a head.

19 When the captains of the Assyrians army heard these words, they rent their coats, and their minds were wonderfully troubled, and there was a cry, and a very great noise throughout the camp.

## CHAP. XV.

1 *The Assyrians are chased and slain. 8*

*The high priest cometh to see Judith. 11*

*The stuff of Holofernes is given to Judith.*

13 *The women crown her with a garland.*

**A**ND when they that were in the tents heard, they were astonished at the thing that was done.

2 And fear and trembling fell upon them, so that there was no man that durst abide in the sight of his neighbour, but rushing out all together, they fled into every way of the plain, and of the hill-country.

3 They also that had camped in the mountains round about Bethulia, fled away. Then the children of Israel, every one that was a warrior among them, rushed out upon them.

4 Then sent Ozias to Betomasthem, and to Bebai, and Chobai, and Cola, and to all the coasts of Israel, such as should tell the things that were done, and that all should rush forth upon their enemies to destroy them.

3 Now when the children of Israel heard it, they all fell upon them, with one consent, and slew them unto Chobai : likewise also they that came from Jerusalem and from all the hill-country (for men had told them

11 *As soon as the morning arose, &c.]* To encourage the besieged to fight for their country and religion, Judith caused the head of Holofernes to be hung upon the wall in sight of the enemy, that it might at once serve to animate the courage of the former, and strike a panic into the minds of the latter.

*Straits of the mountain.]* Margin, Ascerts.

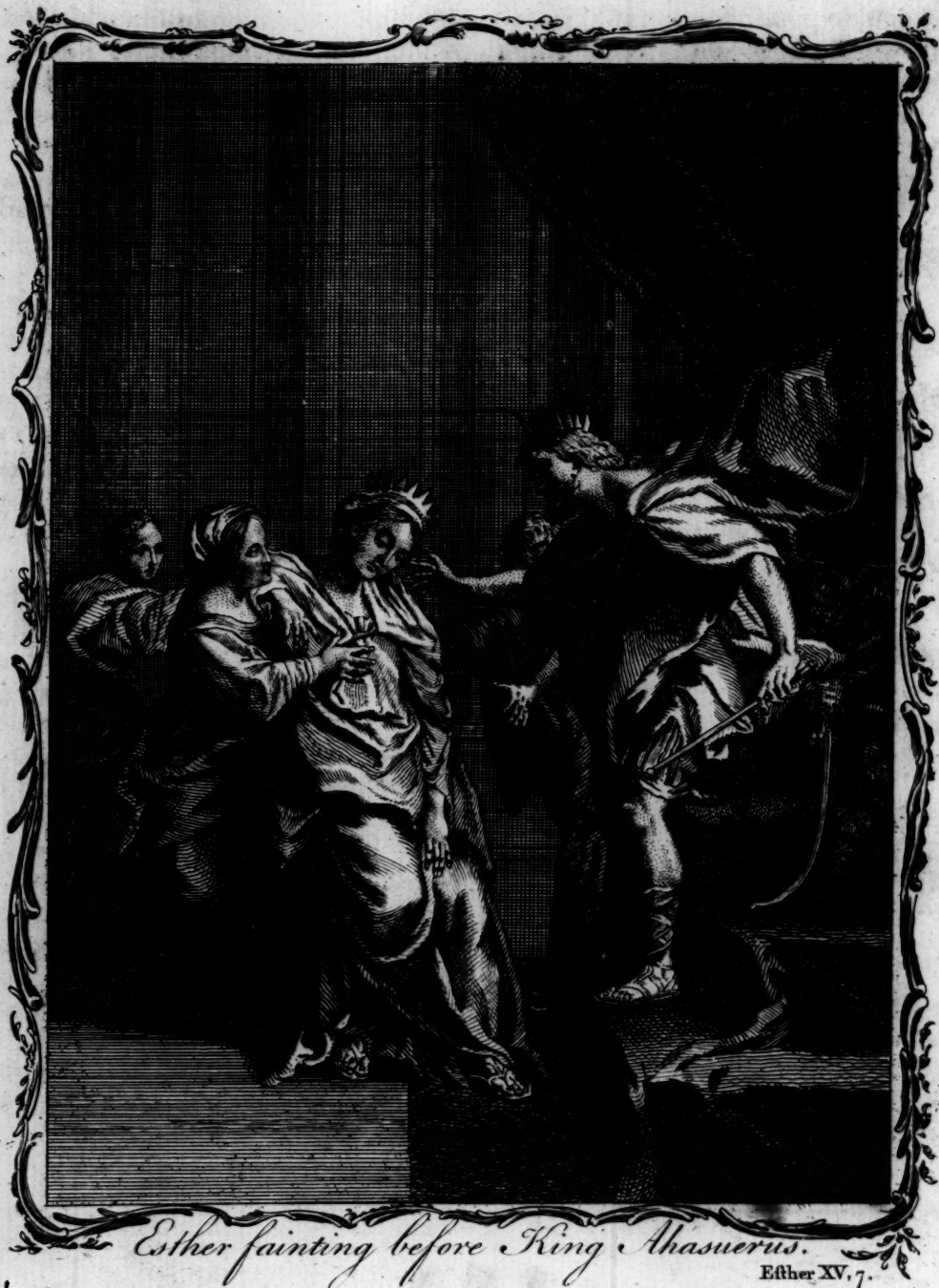
16 *Therefore he cried, &c.]* Margin, Then he cried, &c.

## NOTES on Chap. XV.

Ver. 2 *Fear and trembling fell upon them, &c.]* The Bethulians took the advantage of this disorder of their enemies, and attacked them in small parties from different quarters, and were assisted by all the neighbouring countries, by which means the army of the Assyrians was totally overthrown.







*Esther fainting before King Ahasuerus.*

*Esther XV. 7.*

them what things were done in the camp of their enemies, and they that were in Galaad and in Galilee, chased them with a great slaughter, until they were past Damascus, and the borders thereof.

6 And the residue that dwelt at Bethulia, fell upon the camp of Assur, and spoiled them, and were greatly enriched.

7 And the children of Israel that returned from the slaughter had that which remained; and the villages, and the cities that were in the mountains and in the plain, gat many spoils: for the multitude was very great.

8 Then Joacim the high priest, and the ancients of the children of Israel that dwelt in Jerusalem, came to behold the good things that God had shewed to Israel, and to see Judith, and to salute her.

9 And when they came unto her, they blessed her with one accord, and said unto her, Thou art the exaltation of Jerusalem, thou art the great glory of Israel, thou art the great rejoicing of our nation.

10 Thou hast done all these things by thine hand: thou hast done much good to Israel, and God is pleased therewith: blessed be thou of the Almighty Lord for evermore: and all the people said, So be it.

11 And the people spoiled the camp, the space of thirty days: and they gave unto Judith, Holofernes his tent, and all his plate, and beds, and vessels, and all his stuff: and she took it, and laid it on her mule; and made ready her carts, and laid them thereon.

12 Then all the women of Israel ran to-

gether to see her, and blessed her, and made a dance among them for her; and she took branches in her hand, and gave also to the women that were with her.

13 And they put a garland of olive upon her, and her maid that was with her, and she went before all the people in the dance, leading all the women: and all the men of Israel followed in their armour with garlands, and with songs in their mouths.

## C H A P. XVI.

1 *The song of Judith: 19 She dedicated the stuff of Holofernes: 23 She died at Bethulia, a widow of great honour: 24 All Israel did lament her death.*

**T**HEN Judith began to sing this thanksgiving in all Israel, and all the people sang after her this song of praise.

2 And Judith said, Begin, unto my God, with timbrels, sing unto my Lord with cymbals; tune unto him a new psalm; exalt him, and call upon his name.

3 For God breaketh the battles: for amongst the camps in the midst of the people he hath delivered me out of the hands of them that persecuted me.

4 Assur came out of the mountains from the north, he came with ten thousands of his army, the multitude whereof stopped the torrents, and their horsemen have covered the hills.

5 He bragged that he would burn up my borders, and kill my young men with the sword, and dash the sucking children against the ground; and make mine infants

2 E

as

5 *Chased them.*] Margin, Overcame them.

### NOTES on Chap. XVI.

Ver. 1 *Then Judith began to sing, &c.*] This song of Judith is truly poetical, and deserves a place among the

oriental writings of this kind. The way of singing alternately was a very common and ancient practice. See the note on Exod. xv. 21.

2 *A new psalm.*] Margin, Or psalm and praise.

4 *The multitude whereof stopped the torrents, &c.*] See chap. ii. 19.



as a prey, and my virgins as a spoil.

6 But the Almighty Lord hath disappointed them by the hand of a woman.

7 For the mighty one did not fall by the young men, neither did the sons of the Titans smite him, nor high giants set upon him: but Judith the daughter of Merari weakened him with the beauty of her countenance.

8 For she put off the garment of her widowhood, for the exaltation of those that were oppressed in Israel, and anointed her face with ointment, and bound her hair in a tire, and took a linen garment to deceive him.

9 Her sandals ravished his eyes, her beauty took his mind prisoner, and the sauchion passed through his neck.

10 The Persians quaked at her boldness, and the Medes were daunted at her hardiness.

11 Then my afflicted shouted for joy, and my weak ones cried aloud; but they were astonished: these lifted up their voices, but they were overthrown.

12 The sons of the damsels have pierced them through, and wounded them as fugitives children: they perished by the battle of the Lord.

13 I will sing unto the Lord a new song: O Lord, thou art great and glorious, wonderful in strength, and invincible.

14 Let all creatures serve thee: for thou spakest, and they were made, thou didst send forth thy spirit, and it created them, and there is none that can resist thy voice.

15 For the mountains shall be moved from their foundations with the waters,

the rocks shall melt as wax at thy presence: yet thou art merciful to them that fear thee.

16 For all sacrifice is too little for a sweet savour unto thee, and all the fat is not sufficient for thy burnt-offering: but he that feareth the Lord is great at all times.

17 Wo to the nations that rise up against my kindred: the Lord Almighty will take vengeance of them in the day of judgment, in putting fire and worms in their flesh; and they shall feel them, and weep for ever.

18 Now as soon as they entered into Jerusalem, they worshipped the Lord; and as soon as the people were purified, they offered their burnt-offerings, and their free-offerings, and their gifts.

19 Judith also dedicated all the stuff of Holofernes, which the people had given her, and gave the canopy which she had taken out of his bed-chamber, for a gift unto the Lord.

20 So the people continued feasting in Jerusalem before the sanctuary, for the space of three months, and Judith remained with them.

21 After this time every one returned to his own inheritance, and Judith went to Bethulia, and remained in her own possession, and was in her time honourable in all the country.

22 And many desired her, but none knew her all the days of her life, after that Manasses her husband was dead, and was gathered to his people.

23 But she increased more and more in honour, and waxed old in her husband's house,

8 *With a tire.*] Margin, A mitre.

10 *Were daunted.*] Or, confounded.

11 *They were astonished.*] i. e. The Assyrians.

13 *A new song.*] Or, a song of praise.

19 *Judith dedicated all the stuff of Holofernes, &c.*] Nothing was more common both among the Jews and Gen-

tiles, than to dedicate the spoils taken in war to God, in acknowledgement of his goodness, and to commemorate the victory which by his favour and assistance was then obtained.

23 *In the cave,*] Margin, In the sepulchre.

house, being an hundred and five years old, and made her maid free; so she died in Bethulia: and they buried her in the cave of her husband Manasses.

24 And the house of Israel lamented her, seven days: and before she died she did distribute her goods to all them that were

nearest of kindred to Manasses her husband, and to them that were the nearest of her kindred.

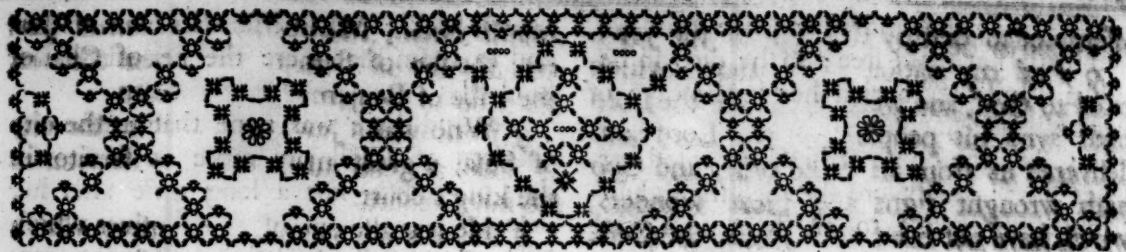
25 And there was none that made the children of Israel any more afraid in the days of Judith, nor a long time after her death.

24 *The house of Israel lamented her seven days.] See Gen. 1. 10.*

The End of JUDITH.

5 MA 56





The rest of the Chapters of the Book of ESTHER,  
which are found neither in the Hebrew nor in the Chaldee.

Part of the Tenth Chapter after the Greek.

#### THE ARGUMENT.

*As some of the following chapters, which are added by way of supplement to the authentic book of Esther, are preserved by Josephus in his history, they are doubtless of an ancient date; but as we find in them manifest contradictions, and a style very different from the canonical writings, we cannot but conclude, that the compilers of the sacred canon had sufficient reason for placing them among the Apocryphal compositions.*

5 Mardocheus remembereth and expoundeth his dream of the river and the two dragons.

**T**HEN Mardocheus said, God hath done these things.

5 For I remember a dream which I saw concerning these matters, and

nothing thereof hath failed.

6 A little fountain became a river, and there was light, and the sun, and much water: this river is Esther, whom the king married, and made queen.

7 And the two dragons are I and Aman.

8 And the nations were those that were assembled

#### NOTES on Chap. X.

Ver. 4 *Mardocheus said, &c.*] In order to connect this additional history with the book of Esther, of which it is said to be the remainder, we are to remember, that by the interposition of Mordecai, or, as he is here called, Mardocheus, and the assistance of queen Esther, the Jews obtained a signal deliverance from the plot laid against

them by Haman, their mortal enemy. Mordecai, to perpetuate so wonderful an instance of the divine favour to his nation, instituted an annual festival to be observed on the fourteenth and fifteenth of the month Adar, for ever. See note on Esther ix. 21.

5 *I remember a dream which I saw, &c.*] See chap. xi. 2. Mordecai is confirmed in his opinion, that these events were brought about by the interposition of Providence, on

assembled to destroy the name of the Jews.

9 And my nation is this Israel, which cried to God, and were saved : for the Lord hath saved his people, and the Lord hath delivered us from all those evils, and God hath wrought signs and great wonders, which have not been done among the Gentiles.

10 Therefore hath he made two lots, one for the people of God, and another for all the Gentiles.

11 And these two lots came at the hour and time, and day of judgment before God amongst all nations.

12 So God remembered his people, and justified his inheritance.

13 Therefore those days shall be unto them in the month Adar, the fourteenth and fifteenth day of the same month, with an assembly, and joy, and with gladness before God, according to the generations for ever among his people.

#### CHAP. XI.

2 *The flock and quality of Mardocheus : 6 He dreameth of two dragons coming forth to fight, 10 and of a little fountain which became a great water.*

**I**N the fourth year of the reign of Ptolemy and Cleopatra, Dositheus, who said he was a priest and Levite, and Ptolemy his son, brought this epistle of Phurim, which they said was the same, and that Lyfimachus, the son of Ptolemy, that was in Jerusalem, had interpreted it.

2 In the second year of the reign of Artaxerxes the great, in the first day of the

month Nisan, Mardocheus the son of Jairus, the son of Semei, the son of Cisai of the tribe of Benjamin had a dream.

3 Who was a Jew, and dwelt in the city of Susa, a great man, being a servitor in the king's court.

4 He was also one of the captives which Nabuchodonosor the king of Babylon carried from Jerusalem, with Jechonias king of Judea, and this was his dream :

5 Behold a noise of a tumult, with thunder and earthquakes, and uproar in the land :

6 And behold, two great dragons came forth ready to fight, and their cry was great.

7 And at their cry all nations were prepared to battle, that they might fight against the righteous people.

8 And lo, a day of darkness and obscurity : tribulation and anguish, affliction, and great uproar upon the earth.

9 And the whole righteous nation was troubled, fearing their own evils, and were ready to perish.

10 Then they cried unto God, and upon their cry, as it were from a little fountain, was made a great flood, even much water.

11 The light and the sun rose up, and the lowly were exalted, and devoured the glorious.

12 Now when Mardocheus, who had seen this dream, and what God had determined to do, was awake ; he bare this dream in mind, and until night by all means was desirous to know it.

2 F

CHAP.

recollecting a dream he formerly had ; which, after comparing with the late wonderful revolution, he declares to have been a true and particular prediction of what afterwards came to pass.

#### NOTES on Chap. XI.

Ver. 1 *In the fourth year of the reign of Ptolemy and Cleopatra, &c.]* In this verse, we have an account of these

additional chapters to the book of Esther, called *the Epistle of Phurim* ; and it is the general opinion of the learned, that the Lyfimachus mentioned here was the author of them.

2 *Mardocheus the son of Jairus, &c.]* Here the author gives a particular account of Mardocheus, his family, his residence at Susa, and the reason of his being there.

12 *He bare this dream in mind, &c.]* The intention of



## C H A P. XII.

2 *The conspiracy of the two eunuchs is discovered by Marchodeus, 5 for which he is entertained by the king, and rewarded.*

**A**ND Marchodeus took his rest in the court with Gabatha and Tharra, the two eunuchs of the king, and keepers of the palace.

2 And he heard their devices, and searched out their purposes, and learned that they were about to lay hands upon Artaxerxes the king, and so he certified the king of them.

3 Then the king examined the two eunuchs, and after that they had confessed it, they were strangled.

4 And the king made a record of these things, and Mardocheus also wrote thereof.

5 So the king commanded Mardocheus to serve in the court, and for this he rewarded him.

6 Howbeit Aman the son of Amadathus the Agagite, who was in great honour with the king, sought to molest Mardocheus and his people, because of the two eunuchs of the king:

## C H A P. XIII.

1 *The copy of the king's letter to destroy the Jews: 8. The prayer of Mardocheus for them.*

**T**HE copy of the letters was this: The great king Artaxerxes writeth

these things to the princes and governors that are under him from India unto Ethiopia, in an hundred and seven and twenty provinces.

2 After that I became Lord over many nations, and had dominion over the whole world, not lifted up with presumption of my authority, but carrying myself alway with equity and mildness, I purposed to settle my subjects continually in a quiet life, and making my kingdom peaceable, and open for passage to the utmost coasts, to renew peace which is desired of all men.

3 Now when I asked my counsellors how this might be brought to pass, Aman, that excelled in wisdom among us, and was approved for his constant good will, and stedfast fidelity, and had the honour of the second place in the kingdom,

4 Declared unto us, that in all nations throughout the world there was scattered a certain malicious people, that had laws contrary to all nations, and continually despised the commandments of kings, so as the uniting of our kingdoms honourably intended by us, cannot go forward.

5 Seeing then we understand that this people alone is continually in opposition unto all men, differing in the strange manner of their laws, and evil-affected to our state, working all the mischief they can, that

this dream, was to predict the great distresses which his countrymen the Jews would feel, and the signal deliverance which, by their prayer to the Almighty, they should obtain from all the cruel attempts of their implacable adversaries.

## NOTES ON Chap. XII.

Ver. 2 *And he heard their devices, &c.*] See Esther ii. 21, and vi. 2.

5 *For this he rewarded him.*] This is a manifest contradiction to the account we have of this affair in the book of Esther, ch. vi. 3. where, on the king's enquiring what had been done for Mordecai, it is said, *Nothing had been done for him.* Indeed the transaction itself plainly shews, that

this was really the case; for it was wholly owing to his not being rewarded for his discovery, that Haman was ordered to honour him in so remarkable a manner. And this very occurrence may be considered as the cause both of the rise of Mordecai, and the fall of Haman, his enemy.

## NOTES ON Chap. XIII.

Ver. 1 *The copy of the letter was this, &c.*] We have here the letter which Ahasuerus, at the request of Haman, sent to the provinces to destroy the Jews. The substance of this letter is given in the canonical book of Esther. See also *Josephus Antiq.* book ii. ch. 6.

4 *Cannot go forward.*] Or, be settled.

that our kingdom may not be firmly established :

6 Therefore have we commanded that all they that are signified in writing unto you by Aman (who is ordained over the affairs, and is next unto us) shall all with their wives and children be utterly destroyed by the sword of their enemies, without all mercy and pity, the fourteenth day of the twelfth month Adar of this present year :

7 That they, who of old, and now also are malicious, may in one day with violence go into the grave, and so ever hereafter cause our affairs to be well settled, and without trouble.

8 Then Mardocheus thought upon all the works of the Lord, and made his prayer unto him,

9 Saying, O Lord, Lord, the King Almighty : for the whole world is in thy power, and if thou hast appointed to save Israel, there is no man that can gainsay thee.

10 For thou hast made heaven and earth, and all the wondrous things under the heaven.

11 Thou art Lord of all things, and there is no man that can resist thee, which art the Lord.

12 Thou knowest all things, and thou knowest, Lord, that it was neither in contempt nor pride, nor for any desire of glory, that I did not bow down to proud Aman.

13 For I could have been content with

good will for the salvation of Israel, to kiss the soles of his feet.

14 But I did this, that I might not prefer the glory of man above the glory of God : neither will I worship any but thee, O God, neither will I do it in pride.

15 And now, O Lord God, and King, spare thy people : for their eyes are upon us to bring us to nought ; yea, they desire to destroy the inheritance that hath been thine from the beginning.

16 Despise not the portion which thou hast delivered out of Egypt for thine own self.

17 Hear my prayer, and be merciful unto thine inheritance ; turn our sorrow into joy, that we may live, O Lord, and praise thy name : and destroy not the mouths of them that praise thee, O Lord.

18 All Israel in like manner cried most earnestly unto the Lord, because their death was before their eyes.

#### CHAP. XIV.

*The prayer of queen Esther for herself and her people.*

QUEEN Esther also being in fear of death, resorted unto the Lord :

2 And laid away her glorious apparel, and put on the garments of anguish and mourning : and in stead of precious ointments, she covered her head with ashes and dung, and she humbled her body greatly, and all the places of her joy she filled with her torn hair.

3 And she prayed unto the Lord God of Israel, saying, O my Lord, thou only art our

6 *Is next unto us.*] Margin, Second from us.

17 *Destroy not.*] Margin, Shut or stop not.

18 *Cried most earnestly.*] Greek, Mightily.

#### NOTES on Chap. XIV.

Ver. 1 *Esther being in fear of death, &c.*] Mordecai having informed Esther of the calamity that threatened them, she was so terrified with the news, that she fell into all the extremities of the most excessive grief ; and, in the

sorrow of her heart, poured out a prayer to God, imploring his protection for the descendants of Jacob, recounting the wonderful works he had wrought for his people ; lamenting their sins, which was the cause of the present troubles ; beseeching the Almighty not to suffer the heathen to triumph over his inheritance ; and begging she might have spirit to attempt, and eloquence to avert the stroke, and move the heart of the king against their grand enemy, who had devised their destruction.



our King: help me desolate woman, which have no helper but thee:

4 For my danger is in mine hand.

5 From my youth up I have heard in the tribe of my family, that thou, O Lord, tookest Israel from among all people, and our fathers from all their predecessors, for a perpetual inheritance, and thou hast performed whatsoever thou didst promise them.

6 And now we have sinned before thee: therefore hast thou given us into the hands of our enemies,

7 Because we worshipped their gods: O Lord, thou art righteous.

8 Nevertheless, it satisfieth them not, that we are in bitter captivity: but they have stricken hands with their idols,

9 That they will abolish the thing that thou with thy mouth hast ordained, and destroy thine inheritance, and stop the mouth of them that praise thee, and quench the glory of thy house, and of thine altar,

10 And open the mouths of the heathen to set forth the praises of the idols, and to magnify a fleshly king for ever.

11 O Lord, give not thy scepter unto them that be nothing, and let them not laugh at our fall; but turn their device upon themselves, and make him an example that hath begun this against us.

12 Remember, O Lord, make thyself known in time of our affliction, and give me boldness, O King of the nations, and Lord of all power.

13 Give me eloquent speech in my mouth before the lion: turn his heart to hate him that fighteth against us, that there

may be an end of him, and of all that are like-minded to him.

14 But deliver us with thine hand, and help me that am desolate, and which have no other helper but thee.

15 Thou knowest all things, O Lord; thou knowest that I hate the glory of the unrighteous, and abhor the bed of the uncircumcised, and of all the heathen.

16 Thou knowest my necessity: for I abhor the sign of my high estate, which is upon mine head, in the days wherein I shew myself, and that I abhor it as a menstruous rag, and that I wear it not when I am private by myself,

17 And that thine handmaid hath not eaten at Aman's table, and that I have not greatly esteemed the king's feast, nor drunk the wine of the drink-offerings.

18 Neither had thine handmaid any joy, since the day that I was brought hither to this present, but in thee, O Lord God of Abraham.

19 O thou mighty God above all, hear the voice of the forlorn, and deliver us out of the hands of the mischievous, and deliver me out of my fear.

#### C H A P. XV.

6 *Esther cometh into the king's presence: 7 He looketh angrily, and she fainteth. 8 The king doth take her up and comfort her.*

**A**ND upon the third day when she had ended her prayer, she laid away her mourning garments, and put on her glorious apparel.

2 And being gloriously adorned, after she had called upon God, who is the beholder and Saviour of all things, she took two maids with her.

3 And

10 *The idols.*] Margin, Vain things.

12 *King of the nations.*] Or, gods.

15 *And of all the heathen.*] Greek, Every stranger.

18 *Since the day that I was brought hither.*] Greek, Since the day of my change.

#### NOTES on Chap. XV.

Ver. 1 *And upon the third day, &c.*] Esther having finished her prayers, which she had continued to the third day, now began to prepare for the grand attempt, and try

3 And upon the one she leaned, as carrying herself daintily.

4 And the other followed, bearing up her train.

5 And she was ruddy through the perfection of her beauty, and her countenance was cheerful and very amiable: but her heart was in anguish for fear.

6 Then having passed through all the doors, she stood before the king, who sat upon his royal throne, and was clothed with all his robes of majesty, all glittering with gold and precious stones, and he was very dreadful.

7 Then lifting up his countenance that shone with majesty, he looked very fiercely upon her: and the queen fell down and was pale, and fainted, and bowed herself upon the head of the maid that went before her.

8 Then God changed the spirit of the king into mildness, who in a fear leaped from his throne, and took her in his arms, till she came to herself again, and comforted her with loving words, and said unto her,

9 Esther, what is the matter? I am thy brother, be of good cheer.

10 Thou shalt not die, though our commandment be general: come near.

11 And so he held up his golden scepter, and laid it upon her neck,

12 And embraced her, and said, Speak unto me.

13 Then she said unto him, I saw thee,

my lord, as an angel of God, and my heart was troubled for fear of thy majesty.

14 For wonderful art thou, lord, and thy countenance is full of grace.

15 And as she was speaking, she fell down for faintness.

16 Then the king was troubled, and all his servants comforted her.

#### C H A P. XVI.

1 *The letter of Artaxerxes, 10 wherein he taxeth Aman, 17 and revoketh the decree procured by Aman to destroy the Jews, 22 and commandeth the day of their deliverance to be kept holy.*

**T**HE great king Artaxerxes unto the princes and governors of an hundred and seven and twenty provinces from India unto Ethiopia, and unto all our faithful subjects, greeting,

2 Many, the more often they are honoured with the great bounty of their gracious princes, the more proud they are waxen;

3 And endeavour to hurt not our subjects only, but not being able to bear abundance, do take in hand to practise also against those that do them good:

4 And take not only thankfulness away from among men, but also lifted up with the glorious words of leud persons that were never good, they think to escape the justice of God, that seeth all things, and hateth evil.

5 Oftentimes also fair speech of those  
2 G that

what interest she had with the king, to prevent the destruction of her people.

3 *Daintily.*] Margin, Delicately.

5 *Ruddy.*] The margin reads, Rose-coloured.

*Very amiable.*] Or, smiling.

8 *In a fear.*] Margin, In an agony.

10 *Though our commandment be general.*] Margin, As well thine as mine.

15 *She fell down for faintness.*] Margin, She fell down in a swoon.

#### NOTES on Chap. XVI.

Ver. 1 *The great king Artaxerxes, &c.*] In order to avert the mischief which would have befallen the Jews from the detestable plot of Haman, it was absolutely necessary that

the same authority which gave the decree should reverse it. Accordingly, the king, being prevailed upon by the intercession of Esther and Mordecai, published his royal letters to countermand those he had before sent to the governors of his numerous provinces. See *Joseph. Antiq. l. ix. c. 6.*

*Unto all our faithful subjects.*] Or, well affected to our state.

2 *Of their gracious princes.*] Margin, Their benefactors.

4 *Leud persons.*] Or, needy.

*That were never good.*] Margin, That never tasted prosperity.

5 *Of those that are put in trust to manage their friends' affairs.*] Margin, Of our friends put in trust to manage the affairs.



that are put in trust to manage their friends affairs, hath caused many that are in authority to be partakers of innocent blood, and hath enwrapped them in remediless calamities;

6 Beguiling with the falshood and deceit of their leud disposition, the innocency and goodness of princes.

7 Now ye may see this, as we have declared, not so much by ancient histories, as ye may, if ye search what hath been wickedly done of late through the pestilent behaviour of them that are unworthily placed in authority.

8 And we must take care for the time to come, that our kingdom may be quiet and peaceable for all men;

9 Both by changing our purposes, and always judging things that are evident, with more equal proceeding.

10 For Aman a Macedonian, the son of Amadatha, being indeed a stranger from the Persian blood, and far distant from our goodness, and as a stranger received of us,

11 Had so far forth obtained the favour that we shewed toward every nation, as that he was called our father, and was continually honoured of all men, as the next person unto the king.

12 But he not bearing his great dignity, went about to deprive us of our kingdom and life:

13 Having by manifold and cunning deceits, sought of us the destruction as well of Mardocheus, who saved our life, and continually procured our good, as also of blameless Esther, partaker of our kingdom, with their whole nation.

14 For by these means he thought, finding us destitute of friends, to have translated the kingdom of the Persians to the Macedonians.

15 But we find that the Jews whom this wicked wretch hath delivered to utter destruction, are no evil-doers, but live by most just laws.

16 And that they be children of the most high, and most mighty living God, who hath ordered the kingdom both unto us, and to our progenitors in the most excellent manner.

17 Wherefore ye shall do well not to put in execution the letters sent unto you by Aman the son of Amadatha,

18 For he that was the worker of these things, is hanged at the gates of Susa with all his family; God who ruleth all things, speedily rendering vengeance to him according to his deserts.

19 Therefore ye shall publish the copy of this letter in all places, that the Jews may freely live after their own laws.

20 And ye shall aid them, that even the same day, being the thirteenth day of the twelfth month Adar, they may be avenged on them, who in the time of their affliction shall set upon them.

21 For Almighty God hath turned to joy unto them the day, wherein the chosen people should have perished.

22 You shall therefore among your solemn feasts keep it an high day with all feasting:

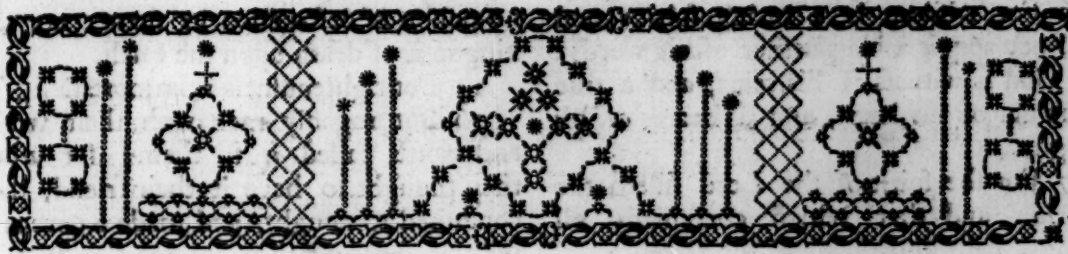
23 That both now and hereafter there may be safety to us, and the well-affected Persians; but to those which do conspire against us, a memorial of destruction.

24 Therefore every city and country whatsoever, which shall not do according to these things, shall be destroyed without mercy, with fire and sword, and shall be made not only unpassable for men, but also most hateful to wild beasts and fowls for ever.

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16 Who hath ordered the kingdom.] Or prospered, margin.

The End of the Book of ESTHER.



# The WISDOM of SOLOMON.

## THE ARGUMENT.

*The principal intention of this book is the instruction of kings, and the information of the judges of the earth. The real author, or the precise time when it was wrote, is uncertain; tho' it is generally agreed that it was not written by Solomon, notwithstanding the title bears his name, nor originally in Hebrew; but by a Hellenist Jew of Alexandria. It seems evident that it was wrote long after Malachi, and the ceasing of prophecy, even a considerable time after the LXX interpreters. It may most probably be placed after the times of the Maccabees, and consequently later than the book of Ecclesiasticus.*

### CHAP. I.

- 2 *To whom God sheweth himself, 4 and wisdom herself. 6 An evil speaker cannot lie bid. 12 We procure our own destruction: 13 For God created not death.*

**L**OVE righteousness, ye that be judges of the earth: think of the Lord with a good (heart) and in simplicity of heart seek him.

2. For he will be found of them that

tempt him not: and sheweth himself unto such as do not distrust him.

3 For froward thoughts separate from God: and his power, when it is tried, reproveth the unwise.

4 For into a malicious soul wisdom shall not enter: nor dwell in the body that is subject unto sin.

5 For the holy spirit of discipline will flee deceit, and remove from thoughts that are without understanding, and will not abide when

### NOTES on Chap. I.

*Ver. 1 Love righteousness, &c.] The first part of this chapter seems to be dictated for the use of judges and magistrates, who have the charge of men's lives and pro-*

*perties. They are exhorted to love righteousness, and to seek the Lord in simplicity of heart; and in order to be masters of that true wisdom; which is necessary to a right discharge of their office, they are shewn how impossible it is to attain it, without divesting themselves of all froward*



when unrighteousness cometh in.

6 For wisdom is a loving spirit: and will not acquit a blasphemer of his words: for God is witness of his reins, and a true beholder of his heart, and a hearer of his tongue.

7 For the spirit of the Lord filleth the world: and that which containeth all things, hath knowledge of the voice.

8 Therefore he that speaketh unrighteous things, cannot be hid: neither shall vengeance, when it punisheth, pass by him.

9 For inquisition shall be made into the counsels of the ungodly: and the sound of his words shall come unto the Lord for the manifestation of his wicked deeds.

10 For the ear of jealousy heareth all things: and the noise of murmurings is not hid.

11 Therefore beware of murmuring, which is unprofitable, and refrain your tongue from backbiting: for there is no word so secret, that shall go for nought: and the mouth that believeth, slayeth the soul.

12 Seek not death in the error of your life: and pull not upon yourselves destruction, with the works of your hands.

13 For God made not death: neither hath he pleasure in the destruction of the living.

14 For he created all things, that they might have their being: and the generations

of the world were healthful: and there is no poison of destruction in them: nor the kingdom of death upon the earth.

15 For righteousness is immortal.

16 But ungodly men with their works and words called it to them: for when they thought to have it their friend, they consumed to nought, and made a covenant with it, because they are worthy to take part with it.

## C H A P. II.

1 *The wicked think this life short, 5 and of no other after this. 6 Therefore they will take their pleasure in this, 10 and conspire against the just. 21 What that is which doth blind them.*

**F**OR the ungodly said, reasoning with themselves, but not aright, Our life is short and tedious, and in the death of a man there is no remedy: neither was there any man known to have returned from the grave.

2 For we are born at all adventure: and we shall be hereafter as though we had never been: for the breath in our nostrils is as smoke, and a little spark in the moving of our heart:

3 Which being extinguished, our body shall be turned into ashes, and our spirit shall vanish as the soft air,

4 And our name shall be forgotten in time, and no man shall have our works in remembrance, and our life shall pass away as

and malicious dispositions; and that deceit and folly are inconsistent with an upright heart.

3 *Reproveth.]* Margin, Maketh manifest.

5 *And will not abide.]* The margin reads, Is rebuked, or sheweth itself.

6 *Wisdom is a loving spirit, &c.]* The excellency of wisdom is shewn by its effects: first, in respect to man, whom it always regards in the spirit of love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, &c. Secondly, in respect to God, whose honour it will vindicate, nor suffer the blasphemer to go unpunished.

7 *And that which containeth.]* Or, upholdeth.

9 *For the manifestation of his wicked deeds.]* Or, reproving of his wicked deeds.

11 *The mouth that believeth.]* Or, slandereth.

## NOTES on Chap. II.

Ver. 1 *For the ungodly said, &c.]* In this chapter we have a picture of the life, principles, and practice of the voluptuous Epicurean, whose hopes, pleasures, and expectations, being wholly confined to this life, his thoughts and study are employed to wanton in all the luxuries that are in the power of art and nature to procure him. The righteous man is his avowed detestation, because his conversation and behaviour continually reprove his own abominable course of life, and therefore he takes all opportunities to oppress him.

3 *The soft air.]* Or, moist air.

as the trace of a cloud, and shall be dispersed as a mist that is driven away with the beams of the sun, and overcome with the heat thereof.

5 For our time is a very shadow that passeth away: and after our end there is no returning: for it is fast sealed, so that no man cometh again.

6 Come on therefore, let us enjoy the good things that are present: and let us speedily use the creatures like as in youth.

7 Let us fill ourselves with costly wine and ointments: and let no flower of the spring pass by us.

8 Let us crown ourselves with rosebuds before they be withered.

9 Let none of us go without his part of our voluptuousness: let us leave tokens of our joyfulness in every place: for this is our portion, and our lot is this.

10 Let us oppress the poor righteous man, let us not spare the widow, nor reverence the ancient gray hairs of the aged:

11 Let our strength be the law of justice: for that which is feeble is found to be nothing worth.

12 Therefore let us lie in wait for the righteous: because he is not for our turn; and he is clean contrary to our doings: he upbraideth us with our offending the law, and objecteth to our infamy the transgressings of our education.

13 He professeth to have the knowledge of God: and he calleth himself the child of the Lord.

14 He was made to reprove our thoughts.

15 He is grievous unto us even to behold: for his life is not like other mens, his ways are of another fashion.

16 We are esteemed of him as counterfeits: he abstaineth from our ways as from filthiness: he pronounceth the end of the just to be blessed, and maketh his boast that God is his father.

17 Let us see if his words be true: and let us prove what shall happen in the end of him.

18 For if the just man be the son of God, he will help him, and deliver him from the hand of his enemies.

19 Let us examine him with despitefulness and torture, that we may know his meekness, and prove his patience.

20 Let us condemn him with a shameful death: for by his own saying he shall be respected.

21 Such things they did imagine, and were deceived: for their own wickedness hath blinded them.

22 As for the mysteries of God, they knew them not: neither hoped they for the wages of righteousness: nor discerned a reward for blameless souls.

23 For God created man to be immortal, and made him to be an image of his own eternity.

24 Nevertheless, through envy of the devil came death into the world: and they that do hold of his side do find it.

### C H A P. III.

1 *The godly are happy in their death, 5 and in their troubles: 10 The wicked are not, nor their children: 13 But they that are pure, are happy, though they have no children: for the adulterer and his seed shall perish.*

**B**UT the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall

2 H

no.

5 *It is fast sealed.*] Or, he is fast sealed.

6 *Speedily.*] Margin, Earnestly.

9 *Voluptuousness.*] Or, jollity.

16 *Counterfeits.*] Margin, False coin.

22 *Nor discerned a reward.*] Greek, Preferred, or esteemed the reward.

### NOTES ON CHAP. III.

Ver. 1 *The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, &c.*] This chapter is a fine contrast to the foregoing. The righteous man may indeed be sorely afflicted with the troubles and calamities of this life, and his death attended with



no torment touch them.

2 In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure is taken for misery,

3 And their going from us to be utter destruction: but they are in peace.

4 For though they be punished in the sight of men: yet is their hope full of immortality.

5 And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded: for God proved them, and found them worthy for himself.

6 As gold in the furnace hath he tried them, and received them as a burnt-offering.

7 And in the time of their visitation, they shall shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble.

8 They shall judge the nations, and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign for ever.

9 They that put their trust in him shall understand the truth: and such as be faithful in love, shall abide with him: for grace and mercy is to his saints, and he hath care for his elect.

10 But the ungodly shall be punished according to their own imaginations, which have neglected the righteous, and forsaken the Lord.

11 For whoso despiseth wisdom and nurture, he is miserable, and their hope is vain, their labours unfruitful, and their works unprofitable.

12 Their wives are foolish, and their children wicked.

13 Their offspring is cursed: wherefore blessed is the barren that is undefiled, which hath not known the sinful bed: she shall have fruit in the visitation of souls.

14 And *blessed* is the eunuch, which with his hands hath wrought no iniquity, nor imagined wicked things against God: for unto him shall be given the special gift of faith, and an inheritance in the temple of the Lord more acceptable to his mind.

15 For glorious is the fruit of good labours: and the root of wisdom shall never fall away.

16 As for the children of adulterers, they shall not come to their perfection, and the seed of an unrighteous bed shall be rooted out.

17 For though they live long, yet shall they be nothing regarded: and their last age shall be without honour.

18 Or, if they die quickly, they have no hope, neither comfort in the day of trial.

19 For horrible is the end of the unrighteous generation.

#### CHAP. IV.

1 *The chaste man shall be crowned.* 3 *Basard slips shall not thrive:* 6 *They shall witness against their parents.* 7 *The just die young, and are happy.* 19 *The miserable end of the wicked.*

**B**ETTER it is to have no children, and to have virtue: for the memorial thereof is immortal: because it is known with God, and with men.

2 When

the most terrible circumstances, which, in the erroneous judgment of the wicked, may be deemed his punishment; yet having his confidence in God, and his hopes in enjoying him in the glorious regions of immortality, his soul is calm and serene amidst the torments of his body, and his death, which his enemies may intend as the greatest of evils, procure him joys that shall never pass away.

9 *Such as be faithful in love shall abide with him.*] Margin, Such as be faithful shall remain with him in love.

12 *Their wives are foolish.*] Light, or unchaste.

14 *In the temple of the Lord.*] Or, Amongst the people.

16 *Shall not come to their perfection.*] Margin, Shall not be partakers of holy things.

18 *In the day of trial.*] Or, Hearing.

#### NOTES on Chap. IV.

Ver. 1 *Better is it to have no children, &c.*] Chastity, one branch of wisdom, is always highly honoured and esteemed.

2 When it is present, men take example at it; and when it is gone, they desire it: it weareth a crown, and triumpheth for ever, having gotten the victory, striving for undefiled rewards.

3 But the multiplying brood of the ungodly shall not thrive, nor take deep rooting from bastard slips, nor lay any fast foundation.

4 For though they flourish in branches for a time; yet standing not fast, they shall be shaken with the wind, and through the force of winds they shall be rooted out.

5 The imperfect branches shall be broken off, their fruit unprofitable, not ripe to eat, yea, meet for nothing.

6 For children begotten of unlawful beds, are witnesses of wickedness against their parents in their trial.

7 But though the righteous be prevented with death; yet shall he be in rest.

8 For honourable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years.

9 But wisdom is the gray hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age.

10 He pleased God, and was beloved of him: so that living amongst sinners he was translated.

11 Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul.

12 For the bewitching of naughtiness doth obscure things that are honest: and the wandering of concupiscence doth undermine the simple mind.

13 He being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time.

14 For his soul pleased the Lord: therefore hastened he to take him away from among the wicked.

15 This the people saw, and understood it not, neither laid they up this in their minds, That his grace and mercy is with his saints, and that he hath respect unto his chosen.

16 Thus the righteous that is dead, shall condemn the ungodly which are living; and youth that is soon perfected, the many years and old age of the unrighteous.

17 For they shall see the end of the wise, and shall not understand what God in his counsel hath decreed of him, and to what end the Lord hath set him in safety.

18 They shall see him, and despise him: but God shall laugh them to scorn, and they shall hereafter be a vile carcase, and a reproach among the dead for evermore.

19 For he shall rend them, and cast them down headlong, that they shall be speechless: and he shall shake them from the foundation: and they shall be utterly laid waste, and be in sorrow: and their memorial shall perish.

20 And when they cast up the accounts of their sins, they shall come with fear: and their own iniquities shall convince them to their face.

#### C H A P. V.

1 The wicked shall wonder at the godly, 4 and confess their error, 5 and the vanity of their lives. 15 God will reward the just, 17 and war against the wicked.

**T**HEN shall the righteous man stand in great boldness before the face of such as have afflicted him, and made no account

ed; whereas its contrary vice generally meets with its deserved punishment: and tho' the wicked may multiply children, which are accounted blessings, yet their posterity is seldom of long duration.

*Because it is known.]* Or, Approved.

12 *Doth undermine.]* Greek, Pervert.

13 *Being made perfect.]* Or, Sanctified, or consummated.

16 *The righteous that is dead, shall condemn the ungodly,*

*&c.]* The righteous in the last day shall rise up in judgment against the sinful inhabitants of the world.

20 *When they cast up the accounts.]* Margin, To the casting up of the account.

#### NOTES on Chap. V.

Ver. 1 *Then shall the righteous man stand, &c.]* The condition of the godly in this world, with respect to external



count of his labours.

2 When they see it, they shall be troubled with terrible fear, and shall be amazed at the strangeness of his salvation, so far beyond all that they looked for.

3 And they repenting, and groaning for anguish of spirit, shall say within themselves, This was he whom we had sometimes in derision, and a proverb of reproach.

4 We fools accounted his life madness; and his end to be without honour.

5 How is he numbered among the children of God, and his lot is among the saints!

6 Therefore have we erred from the way of truth, and the light of righteousness hath not shined unto us, and the sun of righteousness rose not upon us.

7 We wearied ourselves in the way of wickedness and destruction: yea, we have gone through deserts, where there lay no way: but as for the way of the Lord, we have not known it.

8 What hath pride profited us? or what good hath riches with our vaunting brought us?

9 All those things are passed away like a shadow, and as a post that hasteth by;

10 And as a ship that passeth over the waves of the water, which when it is gone by, the trace thereof cannot be found, neither the path-way of the keel in the waves;

11 Or as when a bird hath flown through the air, there is no token of her way to be found, but the light air being beaten with

the stroke of her wings, and parted with the violent noise and motion of them is passed through, and therein afterwards no sign where she went is to be found;

12 Or like as when an arrow is shot at a mark, it parteth the air, which immediately cometh together again, so that a man cannot know where it went through:

13 Even so we in like manner, as soon as we were born, began to draw to our end, and had no sign of virtue to shew; but were consumed in our own wickedness.

14 For the hope of the ungodly is like dust that is blown away with the wind; like a thin froth that is driven away with the storm; like as the smoke which is dispersed here and there with a tempest, and passeth away as the remembrance of a guest that tarrieth but a day.

15 But the righteous live for evermore, their reward also is with the Lord, and the care of them is with the most High.

16 Therefore shall they receive a glorious kingdom, and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand: for with his right hand shall he cover them, and with his arm shall he protect them.

17 He shall take to him his jealousy for complete armour, and make the creature his weapon for the revenge of his enemies.

18 He shall put on righteousness as a breast-plate, and true judgment in stead of an helmet.

19 He

circumstances, is so apparently worse than that of the wicked, that atheists, in all ages, have made it an argument for their disbelief of a supreme being; or at least of a providence to guide the world, and direct the affairs of mortals; but when these foolish men have passed the valley of the shadow of death, they will see, but too late, their fatal mistake; they will then behold the immortal mansions displayed to their view, and the oppressed good man satisfied with the fulness of happiness, and triumphing over all his former misfortunes in the exalted stations of bliss, while they themselves are precipitated into the gulph of misery, unspeakable and eternal.

7 *We wearied ourselves.*] Or, filled ourselves, or surfeited.

14 *Like dust.*] Greek, Like thistle-down.

*Smoke.*] Margin, Chaff.

16 *A glorious kingdom.*] Or, palace: unless the word be taken improperly, as 2 Macc. ii. 17, margin.

17 *He shall take to him his jealousy, &c.*] The following descriptions, to the end of the chapter, are full of the sublimest imagery. God is drawn in all that terrible glory with which the strongest imagination can paint him; his whole figure strikes us in the most amazing manner; he is represented as completely armed with terror; we see his helmet, his breast-plate, his invincible shield, his sharp

19 He shall take holiness for an invincible shield.

20 His severe wrath shall he sharpen for a sword, and the world shall fight with him against the unwise.

21 Then shall the right-aiming thunderbolts go abroad, and from the clouds, as from a well-drawn bow, shall they fly to the mark.

22 And hail-stones full of wrath shall be cast as out of a stone-bow, and the water of the sea shall rage against them, and the floods shall cruelly drown them.

23 Yea, a mighty wind shall stand up against them, and like a storm shall blow them away: thus iniquity shall lay waste the whole earth, and ill-dealing shall overthrow the thrones of the mighty.

#### CHAP. VI.

1 Kings must give ear. 3 They have their power from God, 5 who will not spare them. 12 Wisdom is soon found. 21 Princes must seek for it: 24 for a wise prince is the stay of his people.

**H**EAR therefore, O ye kings, and understand; learn, ye that be judges of the ends of the earth.

2 Give ear, you that rule the people, and glory in the multitude of nations.

3 For power is given you of the Lord, and sovereignty from the Highest, who shall try your works, and search out your counsels.

4 Because being ministers of his kingdom, you have not judged aright, nor kept the law, nor walked after the counsel of God,

5 Horribly and speedily shall he come upon you: for a sharp judgment shall be to them that be in high places.

6 For mercy will soon pardon the meanest: but mighty men shall be mightily tormented.

7 For he which is Lord over all, shall fear no man's person, neither shall he stand in awe of any man's greatness: for he hath made the small and great, and careth for all alike.

8 But a sore trial shall come upon the mighty.

9 Unto you therefore, O kings, do I speak, that ye may learn wisdom, and not fall away.

10 For they that keep holiness holily, shall be judged holy: and they that have learned such things, shall find what to answer.

11 Wherefore set your affection upon my words; desire them, and ye shall be instructed.

12 Wisdom is glorious, and never fadeth away: yea, she is easily seen of them that love her, and found of such as seek her.

13 She preventeth them that desire her, in making herself first known unto them.

14 Whoso seeketh her early shall have no great travel: for he shall find her sitting at his doors.

15 To think therefore upon her, is perfection of wisdom: and whoso watcheth for her, shall quickly be without care.

16 For she goeth about seeking such as are worthy of her, sheweth herself favourably unto them in the ways, and meeteth them in every thought.

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17 For

sword, his thunderbolts, and, in fine, the whole artillery of heaven.

19 *Holiness.*] Margin, Equity.

#### NOTES ON Chap. VI.

Ver. 1 *Hear therefore, O ye kings, &c.*] The author here calls upon kings, judges, and men in high stations, to re-

member that all the power and authority they are invested with, are derived originally from God, and that to him they are accountable for the due administration of justice to the people committed to their care.

10 *Shall be judged.*] Margin, justified.

*Shall find what to answer.*] Or, a defence.



17 For the very true beginning of her, is the desire of discipline; and the care of discipline is love;

18 And love is the keeping of her law; and the giving heed unto her laws, is the assurance of incorruption;

19 And incorruption maketh us near unto God:

20 Therefore the desire of wisdom bringeth to a kingdom.

21 If your delight be then in thrones and scepters, O ye kings of the people, honour wisdom, that ye may reign for evermore.

22 As for wisdom, what she is, and how she came up, I will tell you, and will not hide mysteries from you: but will seek her out from the beginning of her nativity, and bring the knowledge of her into light, and will not pass over the truth.

23 Neither will I go with consuming envy, for such a man shall have no fellowship with wisdom.

24 But the multitude of the wise is the welfare of the world: and a wise king is the upholding of the people.

25 Receive therefore instruction through my words, and it shall do you good.

#### CHAP. VII.

1 *All men have their beginning and end alike:* 8 *He preferred wisdom before all things else.* 15 *God gave him all the knowledge which he had.* 22 *The praise of wisdom.*

**I** Myself also am a mortal man, like to all, and the offspring of him that was

first made of the earth,

2 And in my mother's womb was fashioned to be flesh in the time of ten months, being compacted in blood, of the seed of man, and the pleasure that came with sleep.

3 And when I was born, I drew in the common air, and fell upon the earth, which is of like nature, and the first voice which I uttered, was crying, as all others do.

4 I was nursed in swaddling cloaths, and that with cares.

5 For there is no king that had any other beginning of birth.

6 For all men have one entrance into life, and the like going out.

7 Wherefore I prayed, and understanding was given me: I called upon God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.

8 I preferred her before scepters and thrones, and esteemed riches nothing in comparison of her.

9 Neither compared I unto her any precious stone, because all gold in respect of her is as a little sand, and silver shall be counted as clay before her.

10 I loved her above health and beauty, and chose to have her in stead of light: for the light that cometh from her, never goeth out.

11 All good things together came to me with her, and innumerable riches in her hands.

12 And I rejoiced in them all, because wisdom goeth before them: and I knew not that she was the mother of them.

13 I

17 *Discipline.*] Margin, Nurture.

21 *If your delight be then in thrones and sceptres, &c.*] That the great trust reposed in kings and governors may redound to the glory of God, and the good of mankind, the author directs them to study the principles of wisdom and right judgment. And to encourage them in this pursuit, he tells them, that wisdom is of easy access to those who desire her instruction, has such agreeable qualities, and is so bountiful towards her admirers; that a man must be blind to his own interest who rejects her counsels, and stu-

pidly foolish that can be insensible of her beauty and perfection.

#### NOTES on Chap. VII.

Ver. 1 *I myself also am a mortal man, &c.*] All men, with respect to their birth, are undoubtedly upon an equal footing; as the wise man is born, so is the fool; as the king, so is the beggar. It is wisdom only that distinguishes one man above the rest of his fellow creatures.

9 *Any precious stone.*] Greek, Stone of inestimable price.

13 I learned diligently, and do communicate *her* liberally : I do not hide her riches.

14 For she is a treasure unto men that never faileth : which they that use become the friends of God, being commended for the gifts that come from learning.

15 God hath granted me to speak as I would, and to conceive as is meet for the things that are given me : because it is he that leadeth unto wisdom, and directeth the wise.

16 For in his hand are both we and our words : all wisdom also and knowledge of workmanship.

17 For he hath given me certain knowledge of the things that are, namely, to know how the world was made, and the operation of the elements :

18 The beginning, ending, and midst of the times : the alterations of the turning of the sun, and the change of seasons :

19 The circuits of years, and the positions of stars :

20 The natures of living creatures, and the furies of wild beasts ; the violence of winds, and the reasonings of men : the diversities of plants, and the virtues of roots :

21 And all such things as are either secret or manifest, them I know.

22 For wisdom, which is the worker of all things, taught me : for in her is an understanding spirit, holy, one only, manifold, subtil, lively, clear, undefiled, plain, not subject to hurt, loving the thing that is good, quick, which cannot be letted, ready to do good.

23 Kind to man, stedfast, sure, free from care, having all power, overseeing all things, and going through all understanding, pure, and most subtil spirits.

24 For wisdom is more moving than any motion : she passeth and goeth through all things by reason of her pureness.

25 For she is the breath of the power of God, and a pure influence flowing from the glory of the Almighty : therefore can no defiled thing fall into her.

26 For she is the brightness of the everlasting light, the unspotted mirror of the power of God, and the image of his goodness.

27 And being but one, she can do all things : and remaining in herself, she maketh all things new : and in all ages entering into holy souls, she maketh them friends of God, and prophets.

28 For God loveth none, but him that dwelleth with wisdom.

29 For she is more beautiful than the sun, and above all the order of stars : being compared with the light, she is found before it.

30 For after this cometh night : but vice shall not prevail against wisdom.

#### C H A P. VIII.

2 *He is in love with wisdom :* 4 *for be that bath it, bath every good thing.* 21 *It cannot be had but from God.*

**W**ISDOM reacheth from one end to another mightily : and sweetly doth she order all things.

2 I

13 *Diligently.*] Greek, Without guile.

*Liberally.*] Greek, Without envy.

14 *Become the friends of God.*] Margin, Enter friendship with God.

15 *God hath granted me.*] Or, God grant me.

*That are given me.*] Margin, Are to be spoken of.

22 *Wisdom, which is the worker of all things, &c.*] Wisdom is an inexhaustible treasure of good things, and establishes an indissoluble friendship between man and his Maker ; it enlarges the understanding, and gives eloquence to the lips ; it acquaints us with the hidden properties of nature,

and the operations, qualities, and uses of the elements, the nature of the animal and vegetable world, and the rational principles of men. In a word, wisdom is one of the perfections of the divine being, and the express image of his person.

*One only.*] Greek, Only begotten.

25 *The breath.*] Margin, The vapour.

*A pure influence.*] Margin, Stream.

#### NOTES on Chap. VIII.

Ver. 1. *Wisdom reacheth from one end to another, &c.*]



2 I loved her, and sought her out from my youth, I desired to make her my spouse, and I was a lover of her beauty.

3 In that she is conversant with God, she magnifieth her nobility: yea, the Lord of all things himself loved her.

4 For she is privy to the mysteries of the knowledge of God, and a lover of his works.

5 If riches be a possession to be desired in this life, what is richer than wisdom that worketh all things?

6 And if prudence work, who of all that are, is a more cunning workman than she?

7 And if a man love righteousness, her labours are virtues: for she teacheth temperance and prudence, justice and fortitude: which are such things as men can have nothing more profitable in their life.

8 If a man desire much experience, she knoweth things of old, and conjectureth aright what is to come: she knoweth the subtilties of speeches, and can expound dark sentences: she foreseeth signs and wonders, and the events of seasons and times.

9 Therefore I purposed to take her to me to live with me, knowing that she would be a counsellor of good things, and a comfort in cares and grief.

10 For her sake I shall have estimation among the multitude, and honour with the elders, though I be young.

11 I shall be found of a quick conceit in judgment, and shall be admired in the sight of great men:

12 When I hold my tongue they shall bide my leisure, and when I speak they shall give good ear unto me: if I talk much, they shall lay their hands upon their mouth.

13 Moreover, by the means of her I shall obtain immortality, and leave behind me an everlasting memorial to them that come after me.

14 I shall set the people in order, and the nations shall be subject unto me.

15 Horrible tyrants shall be afraid when they do but hear of me, I shall be found good among the multitude, and valiant in war.

16 After I am come into mine house, I will repose myself with her: for her conversation hath no bitterness, and to live with her hath no sorrow, but mirth and joy.

17 Now when I considered these things in myself, and pondered them in my heart, how that to be allied unto wisdom, is immortality,

18 And great pleasure it is to have her friendship, and in the works of her hands are infinite riches, and in the exercise of conference with her, prudence; and in talking with her, a good report: I went about seeking how to take her to me,

19 For I was a witty child, and had a good spirit.

20 Yea, rather being good, I came into a body undefiled.

21 Nevertheless, when I perceived that I could not otherwise obtain her, except God gave her me, (and that was a point of wisdom also to know whose gift she was)

I prayed

Having, in the preceding chapter, endeavoured to display the excellency and usefulness of wisdom in general, he proceeds in this to inform us, in a more particular manner, of her operations, and the benefits she procures to her friends and lovers. He justly observes, that wisdom, when joined with piety, is the mother of all social virtues, that her counsels are excellent, and her comforts, to those in trouble, inestimable.

*Sweetly.*] Margin, Profitably.

2 *To make her my spouse.*] To marry her myself.

4 *She is privy*] Margin, Teacher.

A lover] Or, Chooser.

9 *She would.*] Greek, Will.

14 *Set.*] Margin, Govern.

16 *After I am come into mine house.*] Margin, Being entered into mine house.

18 *A good report.*] Or, Fame.

*To take her to me.*] Margin, Marry her.

I prayed unto the Lord, and besought him, and with my whole heart I said,

### CHAP. IX.

- 1 *A prayer unto God for his wisdom; 6 without which the best man is nothing worth, 13 neither can be tell how to please God.*

O God of my fathers, and Lord of mercy, who hast made all things with thy word,

2 And ordained man through thy wisdom, that he should have dominion over the creatures which thou hast made,

3 And order the world according to equity and righteousness, and execute judgment with an upright heart :

4 Give me wisdom that fitteth by thy throne, and reject me not from among thy children :

5 For I thy servant, and son of thine handmaid, am a feeble person, and of a short time, and too young for the understanding of judgment and laws.

6 For though a man be never so perfect among the children of men, yet if thy wisdom be not with him, he shall be nothing regarded.

7 Thou hast chosen me to be a king of thy people, and a judge of thy sons and daughters.

8 Thou hast commanded me to build a temple upon thy holy mount, and an altar in the city wherein thou dwellest, a resemblance of the holy tabernacle which thou hast prepared from the beginning.

9 And wisdom was with thee : which knowest thy works, and was present when thou madest the world, and knew what

was acceptable in thy sight, and right in thy commandments.

10 O send her out of thy holy heavens, and from the throne of thy glory, that being present she may labour with me, that I may know what is pleasing unto thee.

11 For she knoweth and understandeth all things, and she shall lead me soberly in my doings, and preserve me in her power.

12 So shall my works be acceptable, and then shall I judge thy people righteously, and be worthy to sit in my father's seat.

13 For what man is he that can know the counsel of God ? or who can think what the will of the Lord is ?

14 For the thoughts of mortal men are miserable, and our devices are but uncertain.

15 For the corruptible body presseth down the soul, and the earthy tabernacle weigheth down the mind that museth upon many things.

16 And hardly do we guess aright at things that are upon earth, and with labour do we find the things that are before us : but the things that are in heaven who hath searched out ?

17 And thy counsel who hath known, except thou give wisdom, and send thy holy Spirit from above ?

18 For so the ways of them which lived on the earth were reformed, and men were taught the things that are pleasing unto thee, and were saved through wisdom.

### CHAP. X.

- 1 *What wisdom did for Adam, 4 Noe, 5 Abraham, 6 Lot, and against the five cities, 10 for Jacob, 13 Joseph, 16 Moses, 17 and the Israelites.*

2 K

SHE

21 *I prayed.*] Margin, Went.

### NOTES ON CHAP. IX.

Ver. 1 *O God of my fathers, and Lord of mercy, &c.*] This whole chapter contains the author's prayer for the gift of wisdom; and, assuming the name of Solomon, takes occasion from his youth and inexperience, to beg for wisdom

to understand the laws and will of the most High, to instruct him in building the temple, and to judge the people with equity and judgment.

11 *In her power.*] Margin, By her power or glory.

14 *Are miserable.*] Margin, Fearful.

16 *Are before us.*] Greek, At hand.



**S**HE preserved the first-formed father of the world, that was created alone, and brought him out of his fall,

2 And gave him power to rule all things.

3 But when the unrighteous went away from her in his anger, he perished also in the fury wherewith he murdered his brother.

4 For whose cause the earth being drowned with the flood, wisdom again preserved it, and directed the course of the righteous in a piece of wood of small value.

5 Moreover, the nations in their wicked conspiracy being confounded, she found out the righteous, and preserved him blameless unto God, and kept him strong against his tender compassion toward his son.

6 When the ungodly perished, she delivered the righteous man, who fled from the fire which fell down upon the five cities.

7 Of whose wickedness even to this day, the waste land that smoketh is a testimony, and plants bearing fruit that never come to ripeness: and a standing pillar of salt is a monument of an unbelieving soul.

8 For regarding not wisdom, they gat not only this hurt, that they knew not the things which were good; but also left behind them to the world a memorial of their foolishness: so that in the things wherein they offended, they could not so much as be hid.

9 But wisdom delivered from pain those that attended upon her.

10 When the righteous fled from his brother's wrath, she guided him in right

paths, shewed him the kingdom of God, and gave him knowledge of holy things, made him rich in his travels, and multiplied *the fruit of his labours.*

11 In the covetousness of such as oppressed him, she stood by him, and made him rich.

12 She defended him from his enemies, and kept him safe from those that lay in wait, and in a sore conflict she gave him the victory; that he might know that godliness is stronger than all.

13 When the righteous was sold, she forsook him not, but delivered him from sin: she went down with him into the pit,

14 And left him not in bonds, till she brought him the sceptre of the kingdom, and power against those that oppressed him: as for them that had accused him, she shewed them to be liars, and gave him perpetual glory.

15 She delivered the righteous people and blameless seed from the nation that oppressed them.

16 She entered into the soul of the servant of the Lord, and withstood dreadful kings in wonders and signs,

17 Rendered to the righteous a reward of their labours, guided them in a marvellous way, and was unto them for a cover by day, and a light of stars in the night-season:

18 Brought them through the Red sea, and led them through much water.

19 But she drowned their enemies, and cast them up out of the bottom of the deep.

20 Therefore the righteous spoiled the ungodly, and praised thy holy name, O Lord,

### NOTES on Chap. X.

Ver. 1 *She preserved the first-formed father, &c.*] Wisdom instructed Adam to govern the world. Cain, who forsook her in the instance of his brother's murder, incurred the curse of his Creator. Wisdom preserved Noah, found out Abraham, and preserved him blameless. She delivered Lot from the destruction of Sodom; preserved Jacob in his

travels; she went with Joseph into Egypt; she brought Israel out of a hard bondage, and strengthened Moses to encounter all the fury of the tyrant Pharaoh.

5 *Against.*] Margin reads, In.

6 *The five cities.*] Greek, Pentapolis.

14 *And power against those that oppressed him.*] Margin, The power of them that ruled over him.

17 *A light.*] Margin, A flame.

Lord, and magnified with one accord thine hand that fought for them.

21 For wisdom opened the mouth of the dumb, and made the tongues of them that cannot speak, eloquent.

# CHAP. XI.

5 *The Egyptians were punished, and the Israelites reserved in the same thing.* 15 *They were plagued by the same things where-in they sinned.* 20 *God could have destroyed them otherwise,* 23 *but he is merciful to all.*

**S**HE prospered their works in the hand of the holy prophet.

2 They went through the wilderness that was not inhabited, and pitched tents in places where there lay no way.

3 They stood against their enemies, and were avenged of their adversaries.

4 When they were thirsty, they called upon thee, and water was given them out of the flinty rock, and their thirst was quenched out of the hard stone.

5 For by what things their enemies were punished, by the same they in their need were benefited.

6 For instead of a fountain of a perpetual running river troubled with foul blood,

7 For a manifest reproof of that commandment whereby the infants were slain, thou gavest unto them abundance of water by a means which they hoped not for:

8 Declaring by that thirst then, how thou hadst punished their adversaries.

9 For when they were tried, albeit but in mercy chastised, they knew how the

ungodly were judged in wrath, and tormented, thirsting in another manner than the just.

10 For these thou didst admonish and try as a father: but the other as a severe king thou didst condemn and punish.

11 Whether they were absent or present, they were vexed alike.

12 For a double grief came upon them, and a groaning for the remembrance of things past.

13 For when they heard by their own punishments the other to be benefited, they had some feeling of the Lord,

14 For whom they rejected with scorn when he was long before thrown out at the casting forth of the infants, him in the end, when they saw what came to pass, they admired.

15 But for the foolish devices of their wickedness, wherewith being deceived they worshipped serpents void of reason, and vile beasts, thou didst send a multitude of unreasonable beasts upon them for vengeance:

16 That they might know that wherewithal a man sinneth, by the same also shall he be punished,

17 For thy Almighty hand that made the world of matter without form, wanted not means to send among them a multitude of bears, or fierce lions,

18 Or unknown wild beasts full of rage, newly created, breathing out either a fiery vapour, or filthy scents of scattered smoke, or shooting horrible sparkles out of their eyes:

19 Whereof

## NOTES on Chap. XI.

Ver. 1 *She prospered their works in the hand of the holy prophet, &c.*] Moses, by the assistance of wisdom, led the people through innumerable dangers and difficulties in the wilderness, repulsed their enemies, gave them water out of a rock, and made use of the same means to relieve and cherish them; by which they were avenged of their ad-

versaries: and when they in their folly worshipped serpents, and wild beasts, he punished them by sending multitudes of those destructive creatures among them. This the Almighty did by the hand of his servant Moses, to manifest his own glory, and shew that he can work, by the most contemptible means, either for the destruction of his enemies, or the salvation of his own children.

13 *Had some feeling.*] Margin, Perceived. 4



19 Whereof not only the harm might dispatch them at once, but also the terrible sight utterly destroy them.

20 Yea, and without these might they have fallen down with one blast, being persecuted of vengeance, and scattered abroad through the breath of thy power: but thou hast ordered all things in measure, and number, and weight.

21 For thou canst shew thy great strength at all times when thou wilt, and who may withstand the power of thine arm?

22 For the whole world before thee is as a little grain of the balance, yea, as a drop of the morning dew that falleth down upon the earth.

23 But thou hast mercy upon all; for thou canst do all things, and winkest at the sins of men: because they should amend.

24 For thou lovest all the things that are, and abhorrest nothing which thou hast made: for never wouldest thou have made any thing, if thou hadst hated it.

25 And how could any thing have endured, if it had not been thy will? or been preserved, if not called by thee?

26 But thou sparest all: for they are thine, O Lord, thou lover of souls.

#### C H A P. XII.

2 *God did not destroy those of Chanaan all at once.* 12 *If he had done so, who could controul him?* 19 *But by sparing them he taught us.* 27 *They were punished with their Gods.*

**F**OR thine incorruptible spirit is in all things.

2 Therefore chastenest thou them by little and little, that offend, and warnest them by putting them in remembrance wherein they have offended, that leaving their wickedness, they may believe on thee, O Lord.

3 For it was thy will to destroy by the hands of our fathers, both those old inhabitants of thy holy land,

4 Whom thou hatedst for doing most odious works of witchcrafts, and wicked sacrifices;

5 And also those merciless murderers of children, and devourers of man's flesh, and the feasts of blood;

6 With their priests out of the midst of their idolatrous crew, and the parents that killed with their own hands, souls destitute of help;

7 That the land which thou esteemedst above all other might receive a worthy colony of God's children.

8 Nevertheless, even those thou sparedst as men, and didst send wasps forerunners of thine host, to destroy them by little and little.

9 Not that thou wast unable to bring the ungodly under the hand of the righteous in battle, or to destroy them at once with cruel beasts, or with one rough word:

10 But executing thy judgments upon them by little and little, thou gavest them place of repentance, not being ignorant that they were a naughty generation, and that their malice was bred in them, and that their cogitation would never be changed.

11 For

22 *A little grain.]* Margin, A little weight.

#### NOTES on Chap. XII.

Ver. 1 *Thine incorruptible spirit is in all, &c.]* The author declares the gradual progress which God made in the reduction of Canaan before the Israelites, as well to give the wicked inhabitants time to repent, as to set before his people an example of mercy: and that as he so leisurely,

and as it were unwillingly destroyed his most inveterate enemies, at the same time chastening his own children with the greatest moderation, they ought to be influenced by his goodness, to forsake sin before he is provoked to inflict the utmost severities of his justice upon them.

4 *Works of witchcrafts.]* Margin, Sorceries.

7 *A worthy colony.]* Margin, New inhabitants.

11 For it was a cursed seed from the beginning, neither didst thou for fear of any man give them pardon for those things wherein they sinned.

12 For who shall say, What hast thou done? or who shall withstand thy judgment? or who shall accuse thee for the nations that perish, whom thou hast made? or who shall come to stand against thee to be revenged for the unrighteous men?

13 For neither is there any God but thou, that careth for all, to whom thou mightest shew that thy judgment is not unright.

14 Neither shall king or tyrant be able to set his face against thee, for any whom thou hast punished.

15 For so much then as thou art righteous thyself, thou orderest all things righteously: thinking it not agreeable with thy power to condemn him that hath not deserved to be punished.

16 For thy power is the beginning of righteousness, and because thou art the Lord of all, it maketh thee to be gracious unto all.

17 For when men will not believe that thou art of a full power, thou shewest thy strength, and among them that know it, thou makest their boldness manifest.

18 But thou, mastering thy power, judgest with equity, and orderest us with great favour: for thou mayest use power when thou wilt.

19 But by such works hast thou taught thy people, that the just man should be merciful, and hast made thy children to be of a good hope, that thou givest repentance for sins.

20 For if thou didst punish the enemies

of thy children, and the condemned to death with such deliberation, giving them time and place, whereby they might be delivered from their malice:

21 With how great circumspection didst thou judge thine own sons, unto whose fathers thou hast sworn, and made covenants of good promises.

22 Therefore whereas thou dost chasten us, thou scourgest our enemies a thousand times more, to the intent that when we judge, we should carefully think of thy goodness, and when we ourselves are judged, we should look for mercy.

23 Wherefore, whereas men have lived dissolutely and unrighteously, thou hast tormented them with their own abominations.

24 For they went astray very far in the ways of error, and held them for gods which even amongst the beasts of their enemies were despised, being deceived as children of no understanding.

25 Therefore unto them, as to children without the use of reason, thou didst send a judgment to mock them.

26 But they that would not be reformed by that correction wherein he dallied with them, shall feel a judgment worthy of God.

27 For look for what things they grudged when they were punished (that is) for them whom they thought to be gods [now] being punished in them, when they saw it, they acknowledged him to be the true God, whom before they denied to know, and therefore came extreme damnation upon them.

### CHAP. XIII.

1 Thy were not excused that worshipped any of God's works. 10 But most wretched

2 L are

12 Who shall come to stand against thee? Or, in thy presence.  
To be revenged.] Or, a revenger.

17 Of a full power.] Or, perfect.

23 Abominations.] Margin, Abominable idols.



*are they that worship the works of men's hands.*

**S**URELY vain are all men by nature who are ignorant of God, and could not out of the good things that are seen, know him that is: neither by considering the works, did they acknowledge the workmaster;

2 But deemed either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circle of the stars, or the violent water, or the lights of heaven to be the gods which govern the world.

3 With whose beauty, if they being delighted, took them to be gods; let them know how much better the Lord of them is: for the first author of beauty hath created them.

4 But if they were astonished at their power and virtue, let them understand by them, how much mightier he is that made them.

5 For by the greatness and beauty of the creatures, proportionably the maker of them is seen.

6 But yet for this they are the less to be blamed: for they peradventure err seeking God, and desirous to find him.

7 For being conversant in his works, they search *him* diligently, and believe their sight: because the things are beautiful that are seen.

8 Howbeit, neither are they to be pardoned.

9 For if they were able to know so much, that they could aim at the world;

how did they not sooner find out the Lord thereof?

10 But miserable are they, and in dead things is their hope, who called them gods which are the works of men's hands, gold and silver to shew art in, and resemblances of beasts, or a stone good for nothing, the work of an ancient hand.

11 Now a carpenter that felleth timber, after he hath fawen down a tree meet for the purpose, and taken off all the bark skilfully round about, and hath wrought it handsomly, and made a vessel thereof fit for the service of man's life;

12 And after spending the refuse of his work to dress his meat, hath filled himself;

13 And taking the very refuse among those which served to no use (being a crooked piece of wood and full of knots) hath carved it diligently when he had nothing else to do, and formed it by the skill of his understanding, and fashioned it to the image of a man.

14 Or made it like some vile beast, laying it over with vermilion, and with paint, colouring it red, and covering every spot therein;

15 And when he had made a convenient room for it, set it in a wall, and made it fast with iron:

16 For he provided for it that it might not fall, knowing that it was unable to help itself (for it is an image, and hath need of help.)

17 Then maketh he prayer for his goods, for

### NOTES on Chap. XIII.

Ver. 1 *Surely vain are all men by nature, who are ignorant of God, &c.*] It is the last degree of stupidity in man, to pretend ignorance of a Deity when he considers the world about him; for an artist is known by his work. If then the works of creation necessarily lead us to the Creator, what folly is it to confine our adoration to any of his creatures, without once considering how superlatively excel-

lent and perfect that Being must be, who created the universe, and placed every thing in it in such admirable order for the benefit or delight of mankind? But surely those of all men are the most miserably infatuated, who fall down to stocks and stones, the works of their own hands, that cannot help themselves; much less those that made them.

11 *A carpenter.*] Margin, A timber-wright.

12 *The refuse.*] Margin, Chips.

for his wife and children, and is not ashamed to speak to that which hath no life.

18 For health, he calleth upon that which is weak : for life, prayeth to that which is dead : for aid, humbly beseecheth that which hath least means to help : and for a good journey, he asketh of that which cannot set a foot forward :

19 And for gaining and getting, and for good success of his hands, asketh ability to do, of him that is most unable to do any thing.

#### CHAP. XIV.

1 *Though men do not pray to their ships, 5 yet are they saved rather by them than by their idols. 8 Idols are accursed, and so are the makers of them. 14 The beginning of idolatry, 23 and the effects thereof. 30 God will punish them that swear falsely by their idols.*

**A** GAIN, one preparing himself to sail, and about to pass through the raging waves, calleth upon a piece of wood, more rotten than the vessel that carrieth him.

2 For verily desire of gain devised that, and the workman built it by his skill.

3 But thy providence, O Father, governeth it : for thou hast made a way in the sea, and a safe path in the waves :

4 Shewing that thou canst save from all danger : yea, though a man went to sea without art.

5 Nevertheless thou wouldest not that the works of thy wisdom should be idle, and therefore do men commit their lives to a small piece of wood, and passing the

rough sea, in a weak vessel, are saved.

6 For in the old time also, when the proud giants perished, the hope of the world governed by thy hand, escaped in a weak vessel, and left to all ages a seed of generation.

7 For blessed is the wood whereby righteousness cometh.

8 But that which is made with hands is cursed, as well it, as he that made it ; he, because he made it : and it, because being corruptible, it was called god.

9 For the ungodly, and his ungodliness are both alike hateful unto God.

10 For that which is made shall be punished together with him that made it.

11 Therefore even upon the idols of the Gentiles shall there be a visitation : because in the creature of God they are become an abomination and stumbling-blocks to the souls of men, and a snare to the feet of the unwise.

12 For the devising of idols was the beginning of spiritual fornication, and the invention of them the corruption of life.

13 For neither were they from the beginning, neither shall they be for ever.

14 For by the vain glory of men they entered into the world, and therefore shall they come shortly to an end.

15 For a father afflicted with untimely mourning, when he hath made an image of his child soon taken away, now honoured him as a God, which was then a dead man, and delivered to those that were under him, ceremonies and sacrifices.

16 Thus

18 *That which hath least means to help.*] Greek, That hath no experience at all.

#### NOTES on Chap. XIV.

Ver. 1 *One preparing himself to sail, &c.*] The folly of idolatry is further set forth in several instances ; it was the original of many other abominable sins ; and idols themselves took their beginning from the corruption and vanity of man's heart. A father, who had lost a beloved child,

in order to honour his memory, made an image of him, and ordered divine honours to be paid him. Statues, designed only as monuments of loyalty and affection to an absent prince, were converted into objects of idolatrous worship. This opened the way to other abominable rites and ceremonies, introduced human sacrifices, and occasioned the vilest immoralities of every kind.

*Devised that*] Viz. The vessel or ship.

11 *Stumbling-blocks.*] Margin, Scandals.



16 Thus in process of time an ungodly custom grown strong, was kept as a law, and graven images were worshipped by the commandments of kings.

17 Whom men could not honour in presence, because they dwelt far off, they took the counterfeit of his visage from far, and made an express image of a king whom they honoured, to the end that by this their forwardness, they might flatter him that was absent, as if he were present.

18 Also the singular diligence of the artificer did help to set forward the ignorant to more superstition.

19 For he peradventure willing to please one in authority, forced all his skill to make the resemblance of the best fashion.

20 And so the multitude, allured by the grace of the work, took him now for a god, which a little before was but honoured as a man.

21 And this was an occasion to deceive the world: for men serving either calamity or tyranny, did ascribe unto stones and stocks, the incommunicable name.

22 Moreover, this was not enough for them, that they erred in the knowledge of God, but whereas they lived in the great war of ignorance, those so great plagues called they peace.

23 For whilst they slew their children in sacrifices, or used secret ceremonies, or made revellings of strange rites;

24 They kept neither lives nor marriages any longer undefiled: but either one slew another traiterously, or grieved

him by adultery.

25 So that there reigned in all men without exception, blood, man-slaughter, theft, and dissimulation, corruption, unfaithfulness, tumults, perjury,

26 Disquieting of good men, forgetfulness of good turns, defiling of souls, changing of kind, disorder in marriages, adultery, and shameless uncleanness.

27 For the worshipping of idols not to be named, is the beginning, the cause, and the end of all evil.

28 For either they are mad when they be merry, or prophesy lies, or live unjustly, or else lightly forswear themselves.

29 For insomuch as their trust is in idols which have no life; though they swear falsely, yet they look not to be hurt.

30 Howbeit for both causes shall they be justly punished: both because they thought not well of God, giving heed unto idols, and also unjustly sworn in deceit, despising holiness.

31 For it is not the power of them by whom they swear; but it is the just vengeance of sinners, that punisheth always the offence of the ungodly.

#### CHAP. XV.

1 *We do acknowledge the true God:* 7 *The folly of idol-makers,* 14 *and of the enemies of God's people:* 15 *because besides the idols of the Gentiles,* 18 *they worshipped vile beasts.*

**B**UT thou, O God, art gracious and true: long-suffering, and in mercy ordering all things.

2 For

16 *By the commandments of kings.*] Margin, Tyrants.

19 *Of the best fashion.*] Greek, To the better.

21 *The incommunicable name.*] Margin, Of God.

25 *Without exception.*] Or, confusedly.

26 *Changing of kind.*] Or, sex.

27 *Not to be named.*] Greek, Nameless.

30 *Giving heed unto idols*] Margin, Devoted to them.

#### NOTES on Chap. XV.

Ver. 1 *Thou, O God, art gracious and true, &c.*] God

orders all things in mercy to his children, and therefore are they the more cautious in offending him. They are not deceived by the inventions of men, nor allured to worship an idol from the beauty of its painting, or the delicacy of its workmanship. Foolish indeed must that man be who puts his confidence in an image of clay, knowing himself to be at the same time a compound of the same fragile materials; and rejoicing in his ignorance and superstitious, oppresseth the righteous.

2 For if we sin we are thine, knowing thy power: but we will not sin, knowing that we are counted thine.

3 For to know thee is perfect righteousness: yea, to know thy power is the root of immortality.

4 For neither did the mischievous invention of men deceive us, nor an image spotted with divers colours, the painters fruitless labour;

5 The sight whereof enticeth fools to lust after it, and so they desire the form of a dead image that hath no breath.

6 Both they that make them, they that desire them, and they that worship them, are lovers of evil things, and are worthy to have such things to trust upon.

7 For the potter tempering soft earth, fashioneth every vessel with much labour for our service: yea, of the same clay he maketh both the vessels that serve for clean uses, and likewise also all such as serve to the contrary: but what is the use of either sort, the potter himself is the judge.

8 And employing his labours leudly, he maketh a vain god of the same clay, even he which a little before was made of earth himself, and within a little while after returneth to the same out of the which he was taken, when his life which was lent him shall be demanded.

9 Notwithstanding his care is, not that he shall have much labour, nor that his life is short: but striveth to excel gold-smiths, and silver-smiths, and endeavoureth to do like the workers in brass, and counteth it his glory to make counterfeit things.

10 His heart is ashes, his hope is more vile than earth, and his life of less value than clay:

11 Forasmuch as he knew not his Maker, and him that inspired into him an active soul, and breathed in a living spirit.

12 But they counted our life a pastime, and our time here a market for gain: for, say they, we must be getting every way, though it be by evil means.

13 For this man that of earthly matter maketh bridle vessels, and graven images, knoweth himself to offend above all others.

14 And all the enemies of thy people, that hold them in subjection, are most foolish, and are more miserable than very babes.

15 For they counted all the idols of the heathen to be gods: which neither have the use of eyes to see, nor noses to draw breath, nor ears to hear, nor fingers of hands to handle, and as for their feet, they are slow to go.

16 For man made them, and he that borrowed his own spirit fashioned them: but no man can make a god like unto himself.

17 For being mortal, he worketh a dead thing with wicked hands: for he himself is better than the things which he worshippeth: whereas he lived *once*, but they never.

18 Yea, they worshipped those beasts also that are most hateful: for being compared together, some are worse than others.

19 Neither are they beautiful, so much as to be desired in respect of beasts: but they went without the praise of God, and his blessing.

#### C H A P. XVI.

2 *God gave strange meat to his people, to stir up their appetite, and vile beasts to their enemies, to take it from them:* 5 *He stung*  
2 M. with

5 *Enticeth fools to lust after it.*] Margin, Turneth a reproach to the foolish.

9 *Not that he shall have much labour.*] Marg. Be sick, or die.

12 *Our time.*] Greek, Life.

15 *To draw breath.*] Margin, Air.



with his serpents, <sup>12</sup> but soon healed them by his word only. <sup>17</sup> The creatures altered their nature to pleasure God's people, and to offend their enemies.

**T** Herefore by the like were they punished worthily, and by the multitude of beasts tormented.

2 In stead of which punishment, dealing graciously with thine own people, thou preparedst for them meat of a strange taste, even quails to stir up their appetite :

3 To the end that they desiring food might for the ugly sight of the beasts sent among them, lothe even that which they must needs desire ; but these suffering penury for a short space, might be made partakers of a strange taste.

4 For it was requisite, that upon them exercising tyranny, should come penury which they could not avoid : but to these it should only be shewed how their enemies were tormented.

5 For when the horrible fierceness of beasts came upon these, and they perished with the stings of crooked serpents, thy wrath endured not for ever.

6 But they were troubled for a small season, that they might be admonished, having a sign of salvation, to put them in remembrance of the commandment of thy law.

7 For he that turned himself towards it, was not saved by the thing that he saw : but by thee that art the Saviour of all.

8 And in this thou madest thine enemies confess, that it is thou who deliverest from all evil.

9 For them the bitings of grasshoppers and flies killed, neither was there found any remedy for their life : for they were worthy to be punished by such.

10 But thy sons not the very teeth of venomous dragons overcame ; for thy mercy was ever by them, and healed them.

11 For they were pricked, that they should remember thy words, and were quickly saved, that not falling into deep forgetfulness, they might be continually mindful of thy goodness.

12 For it was neither herb, nor mollifying plaister, that restored them to health ; but thy word, O Lord, which healeth all things.

13 For thou hast power of life and death ; thou ledest to the gates of hell, and bringest up again.

14 A man indeed killeth through his malice ; and the spirit, whence it is gone forth, returneth not ; neither the soul received up, cometh again.

15 But it is not possible to escape thine hand.

16 For the ungodly that denied to know thee, were scourged by the strength of thine arm : with strange rains, hails, and showers were they persecuted, that they could not avoid, and through fire were they consumed.

17 For, which is most to be wondered at, the fire had more force in the water that quencheth all things : for the world fighteth for the righteous.

18 For some time the flame was mitigated, that it might not burn up the beasts that

#### NOTES on Chap. XVI.

Ver. 1 *By the like were they punished worthily.*] The love of God to his chosen people is demonstrated from the wonders he wrought for them in Egypt, and in the wilderness. When they were ready to perish with hunger, he shewed a miracle, and gave them quails to eat, and manna from heaven ; when for their sins he punished them

with fiery serpents, he gave them a token of love, a symbol of their salvation, by looking to which they received immediate relief.

5 *Upon these.*] Upon thy people.

11 *Pricked.*] Greek, Stung.

*They might be continually mindful of thy goodness.*] Margin, Never drawn from.

that were sent against the ungodly: but themselves might see and perceive that they were persecuted with the judgment of God.

19 And at another time it burneth even in the midst of water, above the power of fire, that it might destroy the fruits of an unjust land.

20 In stead whereof thou feddest thine own people with angels food, and didst send them from heaven bread prepared without their labour, able to content every man's delight, and agreeing to every taste.

21 For thy sustenance declared thy sweetness unto thy children, and serving to the appetite of the eater, tempered itself to every man's liking.

22 But snow and ice endured the fire, and melted not, that they might know that fire burning in the hail, and sparkling in the rain, did destroy the fruits of the enemies.

23 But this again did even forget his own strength, that the righteous might be nourished.

24 For the creature that serveth thee who art the Maker, increaseth his strength against the unrighteous for their punishment, and abateth his strength for the benefit of such as put their trust in thee.

25 Therefore even then was it altered into all fashions, and was obedient to thy grace that nourisheth all things, according to the desire of them that had need:

26 That thy children, O Lord, whom thou lovest, might know that it is not the

growing of fruits that nourisheth man: but that it is thy word which preserveth them that put their trust in thee.

27 For that which was not destroyed of the fire, being warmed with a little sun-beam, soon melted away.

28 That it might be known that we must prevent the sun to give thee thanks, and at the day-spring pray unto thee.

29 For the hope of the unthankful shall melt away as the winter's hoar-frost, and shall run away as unprofitable water.

#### C H A P. XVII.

1 *Why the Egyptians were punished with darkness.* 4 *The terrors of that darkness.*

11 *The terrors of an ill conscience.*

**F**OR great are thy judgments, and cannot be expressed: therefore unnurtured souls have erred.

2 For when unrighteous men thought to oppress the holy nation; they being shut up in their houses, the prisoners of darkness, and fettered with the bonds of a long night, lay [there] exiled from the eternal providence.

3 For while they supposed to lie hid in their secret sins, they were scattered under a dark vail of forgetfulness, being horribly astonished, and troubled with [strange] apparitions.

4 For neither might the corner that held them, keep them from fear: but noises [as of waters] falling down, founded about them, and sad visions appeared unto them with heavy countenances.

5 No power of the fire might give them light:

21 *Thy sustenance.*] Or, manna.

*Tempered itself.*] Or, was tempered.

25 *Into all fashions.*] Margin, Things.

*Of them that had need.*] Margin, Of them that prayed.

#### NOTES ON CHAP. XVII.

Ver. 1 *For great are thy judgments, &c.*] God's care for his children is farther exemplified in punishing the Egyptians for their sake with a most horrible darkness, a dark-

ness attended with the most frightful visions, which were either the creatures of their own terrified imagination, or the effects of a bad conscience.

*Unnurtured souls.*] Margin, Souls that will not be reformed.

2 *In their houses.*] Margin, Under their roofs.

*Exiled.*] Or, fugitives.

3 *Were scattered under.*] Or, in.

*Strange apparitions.*] Or, fights.



light: neither could the bright flames of the stars endure to lighten that horrible night.

6. Only there appeared unto them a fire kindled of itself, very dreadful: for being much terrified, they thought the things which they saw, to be worse than the fight they saw not.

7. As for the illusions of art magic, they were put down, and their vaunting in wisdom was reprov'd with disgrace.

8. For they that promised to drive away terrors, and troubles from a sick soul, were sick themselves of fear worthy to be laughed at.

9. For though no terrible thing did fear them: yet being scared with beasts that passed by, and hissing of serpents,

10. They died for fear, denying that they saw the air, which could of no side be avoided.

11. For wickedness condemned by her own witness, is very timorous, and being pressed with conscience, always forecasteth grievous things.

12. For fear is nothing else, but a betraying of the succours which reason offereth.

13. And the expectation from within being less, counteth the ignorance more than the cause which bringeth the torment.

14. But they sleeping the same sleep that night, which was indeed intolerable, and which came upon them out of the bottoms of inevitable hell:

15. Were partly vexed with monstrous apparitions, and partly fainted, their heart failing them: for a sudden fear, and not

looked for, came upon them.

16. So then, whosoever there fell down, was straitly kept, shut up in a prison without iron bars.

17. For whether he were husbandman, or shepherd, or a labourer in the field, he was overtaken, and endured that necessity, which could not be avoided: for they were all bound with one chain of darkness.

18. Whether it were a whistling wind, or a melodious noise of birds among the spreading branches, or a pleasing fall of water running violently.

19. Or a terrible sound of stones cast down, or a running that could not be seen of skipping beasts, or a roaring voice of most savage wild beasts, or a rebounding echo from the hollow mountains: these things made them to swoon for fear.

20. For the whole world shined with clear light, and none were hindered in their labour:

21. Over them only was spread an heavy night, an image of that darkness which should afterward receive them: but yet were they unto themselves more grievous than the darkness.

#### C H A P. XVIII.

4. Why Egypt was punished with darkness, 5 and with the death of their children.

18. They themselves saw the cause thereof.

20. God also plagued his own people. 21. By what means that plague was stayed.

**N**evertheless, thy saints had a very great light, whose voice they hearing, and not seeing their shape, because they also had not suffered the same things, they counted them happy.

2. But

10. Denying that they saw.] Margin, Refusing to look upon.

14. Which was indeed intolerable.] Margin, Wherein they could do nothing.

#### NOTES on Chap. XVIII.

Ver. 1. Nevertheless thy saints had a very great light,

&c.] In that horrible night of darkness in which God involved the Egyptians, he made a glorious distinction betwixt them and his own people, who all the while enjoyed light in all their dwellings. This their enemies were sensible of, and acknowledged the folly of their former enmity against them. God was pleased to give several other instances of his kind regard for his people, as the pillar of

2 But for that they did not hurt them now, of whom they had been wronged before, they thanked them, and besought them pardon, for that they had been enemies.

3 In stead whereof thou gavest them a burning pillar of fire, both to be a guide of the unknown journey, and an harmless sun to entertain them honourably.

4 For they were worthy to be deprived of light, and imprisoned in darkness, who had kept thy sons shut up, by whom the uncorrupt light of the law was to be given unto the world.

5 And when they had determined to slay the babes of the saints, one child being cast forth, and saved, to reprove them, thou tookest away the multitude of their children, and destroyedst them altogether in a mighty water.

6 Of that night were our fathers certified afore, that assuredly knowing unto what oaths they had given credence, they might afterwards be of good cheer :

7 So of thy people was accepted both the salvation of the righteous, and destruction of the enemies.

8 For wherewith thou didst punish our adversaries, by the same thou didst glorify us whom thou hadst called.

9 For the righteous children of good men did sacrifice secretly, and with one consent made a holy law, that the saints should be like partakers of the same good and evil, the fathers now singing out the songs of praise.

10 But on the other side there sounded an ill-according cry of the enemies, and a lamentable noise was carried abroad for children that were bewailed.

11 The master and the servant were punished after one manner, and like as the king, so suffered the common person.

12 So they altogether had innumerable dead with one kind of death, neither were the living sufficient to bury them : for in one moment the noblest offspring of them was destroyed.

13 For whereas they would not believe any thing, by reason of the enchantments ; upon the destruction of the first-born, they acknowledged this people to be the sons of God.

14 For while all things were in quiet silence, and that night was in the midst of her swift course,

15 Thine Almighty word leapt down from heaven, out of thy royal throne, as a fierce man of war into the midst of a land of destruction,

16 And brought thine unfeigned commandment as a sharp sword, and standing up filled all things with death, and it touched the heaven, but it stood upon the earth.

17 Then suddenly visions of horrible dreams troubled them sore, and terrors came upon them unlooked for.

18 And one thrown here, and another there half-dead, shewed the cause of his death.

19 For the dreams that troubled them did foreshew this, lest they should perish, and not know why they were afflicted.

20 Yea, the tasting of death touched the righteous also, and there was a destruction of the multitude in the wilderness : but the wrath endured not long.

21 For then the blameless man made haste, and stood forth to defend them ; and

2 N

bringing

fire, Pharaoh reproved by the drowning of his host in the sea, the death of all their first-born in one night, and his severe corrections of his own people in the wilderness for their folly and disobedience.

4 *The uncorrupt light.*] Or, incorruptible.

9 *A holy law.*] Or, a covenant of God ; or league, Margin.

17 *Visions.*] Margin, Imaginations.



bringing the shield of his proper ministry, even prayer, and the propitiation of incense, set himself against the wrath, and so brought the calamity to an end, declaring that he was thy servant.

22 So he overcame the destroyer, not with strength of body, nor force of arms, but with a word subdued he him that punished, alledging the oaths and covenants made with the fathers.

23 For when the dead were now fallen down by heaps one upon another, standing between, he stayed the wrath, and parted the way to the living.

24 For in the long garment was the whole world, and in the four rows of the stones was the glory of the fathers graven, and thy Majesty upon the diadem of his head.

25 Unto these the destroyer gave place, and was afraid of them: for it was enough that they only tasted of the wrath.

#### C H A P. XIX.

1 *Why God shewed no mercy to the Egyptians, 5 and how wonderfully he dealt with his people. 14 The Egyptians were worse than the Sodomites. 18 The wonderful agreement of the creatures to serve God's people.*

**A**S for the ungodly, wrath came upon them without mercy unto the end: for he knew before what they would do;

2 How that having given them leave to depart, and sent them hastily away, they would repent and pursue them.

3 For whilst they were yet mourning, and making lamentation at the graves of the dead, they added another foolish device, and pursued them as fugitives, whom they had intreated to be gone.

4 For the destiny, whereof they were worthy, drew them unto this end, and made them forget the things that had already happened, that they might fulfil the punishment which was wanting to their torments:

5 And that thy people might pass a wonderful way: but they might find a strange death.

6 For the whole creature in his proper kind was fashioned again anew, serving the peculiar commandments that were given unto them, that thy children might be kept without hurt.

7 *As namely,* a cloud shadowing the camp; and where water stood before, dry land appeared; and out of the Red sea, a way without impediment; and out of the violent stream, a green field:

8 Wherethrough all the people went that were defended with thy hand, seeing thy marvellous strange wonders.

9 For they went at large like horses, and leaped like lambs, praising thee, O Lord, who hadst delivered them.

10 For they were yet mindful of the things that were done while they sojourned in the strange land, how the ground brought forth flies in stead of cattle, and how the river cast up a multitude of frogs in stead of fishes.

11 But afterwards they saw a new generation of fowls, when being led with their appetite, they asked delicate meats.

12 For quails came up unto them from the sea, for their contentment.

13 And punishments came upon the sinners not without former signs by the force of thunders: for they suffered justly, according to their own wickedness, inasmuch

as

23 *Parted.]* Margin, Cut off.

#### NOTES on Chap. XIX.

Ver. 1 *As for the ungodly wrath came, &c.]* Though the Egyptians had been punished in so exemplary a manner, by a dreadful variety of God's judgments upon them, they madly pursued the fugitive Israelites. But what was the

consequence? Why another manifestation of God's displeasure at their implacable hatred against his people, and his superlative kindness to his children in opening a passage through the depths of the sea.

3 *Intreated to be gone.]* Margin, Cast out by intreaty.

10 *Flies.]* Margin reads, Lice.

12 *For their contentment.]* Or, comfort.

as they used a more hard and hateful behaviour towards strangers.

14 For the Sodomites did not receive those whom they knew not when they came: but these brought friends into bondage, that had well deserved of them.

15 And not only so, but peradventure some respect shall be had of those, because they used strangers not friendly.

16 But these very grievously afflicted them whom they had received with feasting, and were already made partakers of the same laws with them.

17 Therefore even with blindness were these stricken, as those were at the doors of the righteous man: when being compassed about with horrible great darkness, every one sought the passage of his own doors.

18 For the elements were changed in themselves by a kind of harmony, like as

in a psaltery, notes change the name of the tune, and yet are always sounds, which may well be perceived by the sight of the things that have been done.

19 For earthly things were turned into watery, and the things that before swam in the water, now went upon the ground.

20 The fire had power in the water, forgetting his own virtue: and the water forgot his own quenching nature.

21 On the other side, the flames wasted not the flesh of the corruptible living things, though they walked therein, neither melted they the icy kind of heavenly meat, that was of nature apt to melt.

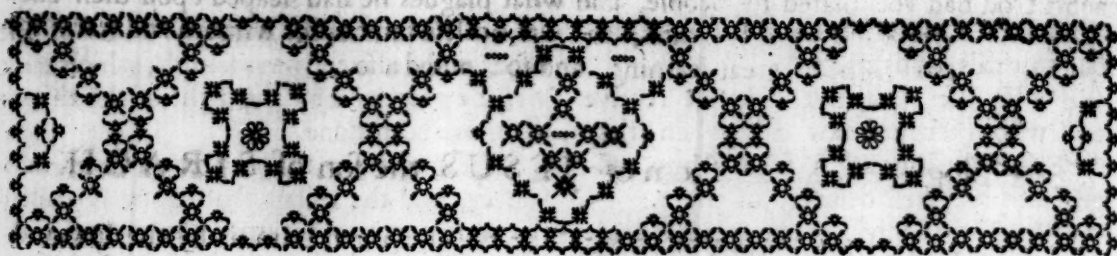
22 For in all things, O Lord, thou didst magnify thy people, and glorify them, neither didst thou lightly regard them: but didst assist them in every time and place.

18 The elements were changed in themselves.] Greek, By themselves.

The End of the WISDOM of SOLOMON.

5 MA 56





## The Wisdom of JESUS the son of SIRACH, or ECCLESIASTICUS.

### THE ARGUMENT.

*This Book is not of infallible authority, but is read in the church as a book of piety and instruction. The first prologue to it informs us, that the author of it was a Jew called Jesus, the son of Sirach, who wrote it in Hebrew; and that it was rendered into Greek by his grandson of the same name. Dr. Prideaux says, it was written under the high priesthood of Onias the second, and translated in the reign of Ptolemy Euergetes. The ancients called it Πανάρετον, i. e. the treasure of all virtues, as supposing it to contain maxims leading to every virtue. The author has copied Solomon's method of teaching morality by sentences or maxims.*

### A Prologue made by an uncertain Author.

**T**HIS Jesus was the son of Sirach, and grandchild to Jesus of the same name with him: this man therefore lived in the latter times, after the people had been led away captive, and called home again, and almost after all the prophets. Now his grandfather Jesus (as he himself witnesseth) was a man of great diligence and wisdom among the Hebrews, who did not only gather the grave and short sentences of wise men, that had been before him, but himself also uttered some of his own, full of much understanding and wisdom. When as therefore the first Jesus died, leaving this book almost perfected, Sirach his son receiving it after him, left it to his own son Jesus, who having gotten it into his hands, compiled it all orderly into one volume, and called it Wisdom, intituling it both by his own name, his father's name, and his grandfather's, alluring the hearer by the very name of wisdom, to have a greater love to the study of this book. It containeth therefore wise sayings, dark sentences, and parables, and certain particular ancient godly stories of men that pleased God; also his prayer and song; moreover, what  
benefits

benefits God had vouchsafed his people, and what plagues he had heaped upon their enemies. This Jesus did imitate Solomon, and was no less famous for wisdom and learning, both being indeed a man of great learning, and so reputed also.

### The Prologue of the Wisdom of JESUS the son of SIRACH.

**W**HEREAS many and great things have been delivered unto us by the law and the prophets, and by others that have followed their steps, for the which things Israel ought to be commended for learning and wisdom; and whereof not only the readers must needs become skilful themselves, but also they that desire to learn, be able to profit them which are without, both by speaking and writing: my grandfather Jesus, when he had much given himself to the reading of the law, and the prophets, and other books of our fathers, and had gotten therein good judgment, was drawn on also himself to write something pertaining to learning and wisdom, to the intent that those which are desirous to learn, and are addicted to these things, might profit much more in living according to the law. Wherefore, let me intreat you to read it with favour and attention, and to pardon us, wherein we may seem to come short of some words which we have laboured to interpret. For the same things uttered in Hebrew, and translated into another tongue, have not the same force in them: and not only these things, but the law itself, and the prophets, and the rest of the books have no small difference, when they are spoken in their own language. For in the eight and thirtieth year coming into Egypt, when Euergetes was king, and continuing there some time, I found a book of no small learning: therefore I thought it most necessary for me, to bestow some diligence and travel to interpret it; using great watchfulness and skill in that space, to bring the book to an end, and set it forth for them also, which in a strange country are willing to learn, being prepared before in manners to live after the law.

#### CHAP. I.

1 *All wisdom is from God: 10 He giveth it to them that love him. 12 The fear of God is full of many blessings. 28 To fear God without hypocrisy.*

**A**LL wisdom cometh from the Lord, and is with him for ever.

2 Who can number the sand of the sea, and the drops of rain, and the days of eternity?

3 Who can find out the height of heaven, and the breadth of the earth, and the deep, and wisdom.

4 Wisdom hath been created before all things, and the understanding of prudence from everlasting.

5 The word of God most High, is the fountain of wisdom; and her ways are everlasting commandments.

6 To whom hath the root of wisdom  
2 O been

#### NOTES on Chap. I.

Ver. 1 *All wisdom cometh from the Lord, &c.*] God is undoubtedly the fountain of all wisdom, all our ideas of which must arise from those emanations of it which he has been pleased to transfuse from himself into human nature;

and are apparent also in the admirable works of his creation and providence.

5 *Her ways are everlasting commandments.*] This is much more clearly rendered in other versions, *The entrance unto her are the everlasting commandments*: i. e. the observation of the decalogue gives wisdom an entrance into the



revealed? or who hath known her wise counsels?

7 [Unto whom hath the knowledge of wisdom been made manifest? and who hath understood her great experience?]

8 There is one wife and greatly to be feared; the Lord sitting upon his throne.

9 He created her, and saw her, and numbered her, and poured her out upon all his works.

10 She is with all flesh according to his gift, and he hath given her to them that love him.

11 The fear of the Lord is honour, and glory, and gladness, and a crown of rejoicing.

12 The fear of the Lord maketh a merry heart, and giveth joy and gladness, and a long life.

13 Whoso feareth the Lord, it shall go well with him at the last, and he shall find favour in the day of his death.

14 To fear the Lord, is the beginning of wisdom: and it was created with the faithful in the womb.

15 She hath built an everlasting foundation with men, and she shall continue with their seed.

16 To fear the Lord is fulness of wisdom, and filleth men with her fruits.

17 She filleth all their house with things desirable, and the garners with her increase.

18 The fear of the Lord is a crown of wisdom, maketh peace and perfect health to flourish: both which are the gifts of God: and it enlargeth their rejoicing that love him.

19 Wisdom raineth down skill and know-

ledge of understanding, and exalteth them to honour that hold her fast.

20 The root of wisdom is to fear the Lord, and the branches thereof are long life.

21 The fear of the Lord driveth away sins: and where it is present, it turneth away wrath.

22 A furious man cannot be justified, for the sway of his fury shall be his destruction.

23 A patient man will bear for a time, and afterward joy shall spring up unto him.

24 He will hide his words for a time, and the lips of many shall declare his wisdom.

25 The parables of knowledge are in the treasures of wisdom: but godliness is an abomination to a finner.

26 If thou desire wisdom, keep the commandments, and the Lord shall give her unto thee.

27 For the fear of the Lord is wisdom and instruction: and faith and meekness are his delight.

28 Distrust not the fear of the Lord when thou art poor: and come not unto him with a double heart.

29 Be not an hypocrite in the sight of men, and take good heed what thou speakest.

30 Exalt not thyself, lest thou fall, and bring dishonour upon thy soul, and so God discover thy secrets, and cast thee down in the midst of the congregation, because thou camest not in truth to the fear of the Lord, but thy heart is full of deceit.

## CHAP.

minds of men; or is that which will make them truly wise.

13 *He shall find favour.*] Margin, He shall be blessed.

15 *She hath built an everlasting foundation, &c.*] The sense is, that among all the living beings which are visible, and we know of, the human nature hath powers most capa-

ble of wisdom, and has the largest portion of it.

22 *Cannot be justified.*] Or, escape punishment.

28 *Distrust not.*] Or, be not disobedient to.

30 *Lest God discover thy secrets.*] Lest by pretending to have more virtue than other men, thou provoke God to bring to light thy secret crimes and hypocrisy.

## C H A P. II.

1 *God's servants must look for trouble, 7 and be patient, and trust in him: 12 For wo to them that do not so.*

**M**Y son if thou come to serve the Lord, prepare thy soul for temptation.

2 Set thy heart aright, and constantly endure, and make not haste in time of trouble.

3 Cleave unto him, and depart not away, that thou mayest be increased at thy last end.

4 Whatsoever is brought upon thee, take chearfully, and be patient when thou art changed to a low estate.

5 For gold is tried in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of adversity.

6 Believe in him, and he will help thee: order thy way aright, and trust in him.

7 Ye that fear the Lord, wait for his mercy, and go not aside, lest ye fall.

8 Ye that fear the Lord, believe him, and your reward shall not fail.

9 Ye that fear the Lord, hope for good, and for everlasting joy and mercy.

10 Look at the generations of old, and see: did ever any trust in the Lord, and was confounded? or did any abide in his fear, and was forsaken? or whom did he ever despise, that called upon him.

11 For the Lord is full of compassion and mercy, long-suffering, and very pitiful,

and forgiveth sins, and saveth in time of affliction.

12 Woe be to fearful hearts, and faint hands, and the sinner that goeth two ways.

13 Woe unto him that is faint-hearted, for he believeth not, therefore shall he not be defended.

14 Woe unto you that have lost patience: and what will you do, when the Lord shall visit you?

15 They that fear the Lord will not disobey his word: and they that love him, will keep his ways.

16 They that fear the Lord will seek that which is well pleasing unto him: and they that love him shall be filled with the law.

17 They that fear the Lord, will prepare their hearts, and humble their souls in his sight,

18 *Saying, We will fall into the hands of the Lord, and not into the hands of men: for as his majesty is, so is his mercy.*

## C H A P. III.

2 *Children must honour and help both their parents. 21 We may not desire to know all things.*

**H**EAR me, your father, O children, and do thereafter, that ye may be safe.

2 For the Lord hath given the father honour over the children, and hath confirmed the authority of the mother over the sons.

3 Whoso honoureth his father maketh an atonement for his sins.

4 And

## NOTES ON Chap. II.

Ver. 1 *My son, if thou come to serve the Lord, &c.]* The occasion of this advice was, some think, that at this time the Jews were grievously afflicted under Ptolemy Lagus, who took Jerusalem, and used the Jews with great severity, sending many thousands of them captives into Egypt; which change of state might very probably incline many to forsake Judaism.

2 *And make not haste.]* Or, haste not.

7 *Go not aside, lest ye fall.]* Have not recourse to any unlawful means for succour, which men of little faith and great impatience are apt to fly to.

12 *Woe be to fearful hearts, &c.]* i. e. Such as fall away in time of persecution.

18 *We will fall into the hands of the Lord, &c.]* They who have a right sense of God upon their minds, will rather chuse to receive his paternal corrections, which are designed to recal them to their duty, than to be left to go on in sin, till their demerits require that they should be delivered up into the hands of men.

## NOTES ON Chap. III.

Ver. 2 *Hath confirmed the authority.]* Or, Judgment.

3 *Whoso honoureth his father, maketh an atonement for his sins.]* Shall obtain remission of his own sins, upon his repentance, and prayer for forgiveness.



4 And he that honoureth his mother, is as one that layeth up treasure.

5 Whoso honoureth his father shall have joy of *his own* children, and when he maketh his prayer, he shall be heard.

6 He that honoureth his father shall have a long life; and he that is obedient unto the Lord shall be a comfort to his mother.

7 He that feareth the Lord will honour his father, and will do service unto his parents, as to his masters.

8 Honour thy father and mother, both in word and deed, that a blessing may come upon thee from them.

9 For the blessing of the father establisheth the houses of children, but the curse of the mother rooteth out foundations.

10 Glory not in the dishonour of thy father, for thy father's dishonour is no glory unto thee.

11 For the glory of a man is from the honour of his father; and a mother in dishonour is a reproach unto the children.

12 My son, help thy father in his age, and grieve him not as long as he liveth.

13 And if his understanding fail, have patience with him, and despise him not when thou art in thy full strength.

14 For the relieving of thy father shall not be forgotten: and instead of sins, it shall be added to build thee up.

15 In the day of thine affliction it shall be remembered; thy sins also shall melt away, as the ice in the fair warm weather.

16 He that forsaketh his father is a blasphemer, and he that angereth his mother is

curfed of God.

17 My son, go on with thy business in meekness, so shalt thou be beloved of him that is approved.

18 The greater thou art, the more humble thyself, and thou shalt find favour before the Lord.

19 Many are in high place, and of renown: but mysteries are revealed unto the meek.

20 For the power of the Lord is great, and is honoured of the lowly.

21 Seek not out the things that are too hard for thee, neither search the things that are above thy strength.

22 But what is commanded thee, think thereupon with reverence: for it is not needful for thee to *set with thine eyes* the things that are in secret.

23 Be not curious in unnecessary matters: for more things are shewed unto thee than men understand.

24 For many are deceived by their own vain opinion, and an evil suspicion hath overthrown their judgment.

25 Without eyes thou shalt want light: profess not the knowledge therefore that thou hast not.

26 A stubborn heart shall fare evil at the last: and he that loveth danger shall perish therein.

27 An obstinate heart shall be laden with sorrows, and the wicked man shall heap sin upon sin.

28 In the punishment of the proud there is no remedy: for the plant of wickedness hath

13 *If his understanding fail, have patience, &c.*] This extends filial piety to the highest degree, inculcating, that whatever difference there may be between a child and his parent, in health, strength, and understanding, riches, or honour, yet the parent is not to be despised, but to be honoured by the child, and taken care of by him.

*In thy full strength.*] Margin, In all thine ability.

17 *So shalt thou be beloved of him that is approved.*] i. e. By all worthy and good men, such as themselves are, for the like good qualities, beloved both of God and man.

22 *It is not needful for thee to see with thine eyes the things that are in secret.*] Namely, things pertaining to the nature of God, into which to enquire too curiously is imprudence.

23 *Profess not the knowledge therefore that thou hast not.*] Being by nature ignorant with regard to divine things, it is absurd to pretend to know more of them than God has been pleased to reveal.

28 *In the punishment of the proud.*] Margin, The proud man is not healed by his punishment.

hath taken root in him.

29 The heart of the prudent will understand a parable, and an attentive ear is the desire of a wise man.

30 Water will quench a flaming fire, and alms maketh an atonement for sins.

31 And he that requiteth good turns, is mindful of that which may come hereafter; and when he falleth he shall find a stay.

#### CHAP. IV.

1 *We may not despise the poor or fatherless, 11 but seek for wisdom, 20 and not be ashamed of some things.*

**M**Y son, defraud not the poor of his living, and make not the needy eyes to wait long.

2 Make not an hungry soul sorrowful: neither provoke a man in his distress.

3 Add not more trouble to an heart that is vexed; and defer not to give to him that is in need.

4 Reject not the supplication of the afflicted: neither turn away thy face from a poor man.

5 Turn not away thine eye from the needy, and give him none occasion to curse thee.

6 For if he curse thee in the bitterness of his soul, his prayer shall be heard of him that made him.

7 Get thyself the love of the congregation, and bow thy head to a great man.

8 Let it not grieve thee to bow down thine ear to the poor, and give him a friendly answer with meekness.

9 Deliver him that suffereth wrong from the hand of the oppressor: and be not faint-hearted when thou sittest in judgment.

10 Be as a father unto the fatherless, and instead of an husband unto their mother: so shalt thou be as the son of the most High, and he shall love thee more than thy mother doth.

11 Wisdom exalteth her children, and layeth hold of them that seek her.

12 He that loveth her, loveth life; and they that seek to her early, shall be filled with joy.

13 He that holdeth her fast shall inherit glory; and whosoever she entereth, the Lord will bless.

14 They that serve her, shall minister to the Holy one: and them that love her, the Lord doth love.

15 Whoso giveth ear unto her, shall judge the nations: and he that attendeth unto her, shall dwell securely.

16 If a man commit himself unto her, he shall inherit her; and his generation shall hold her in possession.

17 For at the first she will walk with him by crooked ways, and bring fear and dread upon him, and torment him with her discipline, until she may trust his soul, and try him by her laws.

18 Then will she return the straight way unto him, and comfort him, and shew him her secrets.

19 But if he go wrong, she will forsake him, and give him over to his own ruin.

20 Observe the opportunity, and beware  
2 P of

31 *He that requiteth good turns, is mindful, &c.]* God, who is a certain recompenser of all acts of beneficence or tenderness done to those in distress, keeps an account of all such charitable deeds, to return them in due time with increase.

#### NOTES on Chap. IV.

Ver. 5 *From the needy.]* Or, him that asketh.

14 *They that serve her shall minister, &c.]* They that are

endued with true wisdom, and are obedient to her dictates, are fit to minister to God in his sanctuary, or at his altar.

*To the Holy one.]* Margin. In his sanctuary.

17 *Will bring fear and dread upon him, &c.]* The ancient philosophers have well represented this by the emblem of two roads; that which leads to virtue and happiness, at the end of it is rough and unpleasant; and the other, which terminates in a precipice or destruction, and is the way of wickedness, is wide, beaten, and easy.



of evil ; and be not ashamed, when it concerneth thy soul.

21 For there is a shame that bringeth sin ; and there is a shame which is glory and grace.

22 Accept no person against thy soul, and let not the reverence of any man cause thee to fall.

23 And refrain not to speak, when there is occasion to do good, and hide not thy wisdom in her beauty.

24 For by speech wisdom shall be known, and learning by the word of the tongue.

25 In no wise speak against the truth, but be abashed of the error of thine ignorance.

26 Be not ashamed to confess thy sins, and force not the course of the river.

27 Make not thyself an underling to a foolish man ; neither accept the person of the mighty.

28 Strive for the truth unto death, and the Lord shall fight for thee.

29 Be not hasty in thy tongue, and in thy deeds slack and remiss.

30 Be not as a lion in thy house, nor frantick among thy servants.

31 Let not thine hand be stretched out to receive, and shut when thou shouldest repay.

#### CHAP. V.

1 *We must not presume of our wealth and strength, 6 nor of the mercy of God to sin. 9 We must not be double-tongued, 12 nor answer without knowledge.*

21 *There is a shame that bringeth sin.*] i. e. When a man is laughed out of his modesty and virtue, through the raillery or prophane jests of others.

23 *Hide not thy wisdom in her beauty.*] Or, hide not the beauty of thy wisdom, when it ought to be displayed, and may do service.

*When there is occasion.*] Greek, In time of saving.

26 *And force not the course of the river.*] Margin, Strive not against the stream.

30 *Be not as a lion in thy house, &c.*] Be not imperious or

SET not thy heart upon thy goods, and, say not, I have enough for my life.

2 Follow not thine own mind, and thy strength to walk in the ways of thy heart :

3 And say not, Who shall controul me for my works ? for the Lord will surely revenge thy pride.

4 Say not, I have sinned, and what harm hath happened unto me ? for the Lord is long-suffering, he will in no wise let thee go.

5 Concerning propitiation, be not without fear to add sin unto sin :

6 And say not, His mercy is great, he will be pacified for the multitude of my sins : for mercy and wrath come from him, and his indignation resteth upon sinners.

7 Make no tarrying to turn to the Lord, and put not off from day to day : for suddenly shall the wrath of the Lord come forth, and in thy security thou shalt be destroyed, and perish in the day of vengeance.

8 Set not thine heart upon goods unjustly gotten, for they shall not profit thee in the day of calamity.

9 Winnow not with every wind, and go not into every way : for so doth the sinner that hath a double tongue.

10 Be stedfast in thy understanding, and let thy word be the same.

11 Be swift to hear, and let thy life be sincere, and with patience give answer.

12 If thou hast understanding, answer thy neighbour ; if not, lay thy hand upon thy mouth.

13 Honour and Shame is in talk : and the tongue of man is his fall.

14 Be

tyrannical, nor affect to appear terrible to thy family.

31 *When thou shouldest repay.*] Or, give.

#### NOTES on Chap. V.

Ver. 9 *Winnow not with every wind.*] This is a proverbial expression, and means that we should not change our sentiments in order to ingratiate ourselves with every one. Espouse not every opinion, but impartially consider where truth lies, and continue stedfastly and firmly attached to it.

13 *The tongue of man is his fall.*] Some versions render

14 Be not called a whisperer, and lie not in wait with thy tongue : for a foul shame is upon the thief, and an evil condemnation upon the double tongue.

15 Be not ignorant of any thing, in a great matter or a small.

## CHAP. VI.

2 *Do not extol thine own conceit, 7 but make choice of a friend.* 18 *Seek wisdom betimes: 20 It is grievous to some, 28 yet the fruits thereof are pleasant.* 35 *Be ready to bear wise men.*

**I**N stead of a friend become not an enemy ; for [thereby] thou shalt inherit an ill name, shame and reproach : even so shall a sinner that hath a double tongue.

2 Extol not thyself in the counsel of thine own heart ; that thy soul be not torn in pieces as a bull [straying alone. ]

3 Thou shalt eat up thy leaves, and lose thy fruit, and leave thyself as a dry tree.

4 A wicked soul shall destroy him that hath it, and shall make him to be laughed to scorn of his enemies.

5 Sweet language will multiply friends : and a fair-speaking tongue will increase kind greetings.

6 Be in peace with many : nevertheless have but one counsellor of a thousand.

7 If thou wouldest get a friend, prove him first, and be not hasty to credit him.

8 For some man is a friend for his own

occasion, and will not abide in the day of thy trouble.

9 And there is a friend, who being turned to enmity and strife, will discover thy reproach.

10 Again, some friend is a companion at the table, and will not continue in the day of thy affliction.

11 But in thy prosperity he will be as thyself, and will be bold over thy servants.

12 If thou be brought low, he will be against thee, and will hide himself from thy face.

13 Separate thyself from thine enemies, and take heed of thy friends.

14 A faithful friend is a strong defence : and he that hath found such an one, hath found a treasure.

15 Nothing doth countervail a faithful friend, and his excellency is invaluable.

16 A faithful friend is the medicine of life, and they that fear the Lord shall find him.

17 Whoso feareth the Lord shall direct his friendship aright : for as he is, so shall his neighbour be also.

18 My son, gather instruction from thy youth up : so shalt thou find wisdom till thine old age.

19 Come unto her as one that ploweth and soweth, and wait for her good fruits : for thou shalt not toil much in labouring about her, but thou shalt eat of her fruits right soon.

20 She

it, The tongue of the imprudent man is his fall.

14 *A foul shame is upon the thief.*] This seems to make the secret detractor worse than the thief. The thief is often forced upon robbery through want ; but the whisperer does as great if not greater injury to his neighbour, without any advantage to himself.

15 *Be not ignorant of any thing, &c.*] This should be rather rendered, as it is in some copies, " Do nothing rashly, either in a great or small matter."

## NOTES ON CHAP. VI.

Ver. 2 *That thy soul be not torn in pieces as a bull straying*

*alone.*] Some versions render it, Extol not thyself in the counsel of thine own heart, as a bull which is generally head-strong, and properly enough applied to an obstinate temper.

3 *Thou shalt eat up thy leaves, and lose thy fruit, &c.*] Some think the reading should be in the third person, and connected with the preceding verse, " Lest thy soul rend thee as a bull, and eat up thy leaves, and destroy thy fruit, and leave thee as a dry tree."

5 *Sweet language.*] Or, a sweet throat.

7 *Prove him first.*] Margin, Get him in the time of trouble.



20 She is very unpleasant to the unlearned: he that is without understanding will not remain with her.

21 She will lie upon him as a mighty stone of trial: and he will cast her from him, ere it be long.

22 For wisdom is according to her name, and she is not manifest unto many.

23 Give ear my son, receive my advice, and refuse not my counsel.

24 And put thy feet into her fetters, and thy neck into her chain.

25 Bow down thy shoulder, and bear her, and be not grieved with her bonds.

26 Come unto her with thy whole heart, and keep her ways with all thy power.

27 Search and seek, and she shall be made known unto thee: and when thou hast got hold of her, let her not go.

28 For at the last thou shalt find her rest, and that shall be turned to thy joy.

29 Then shall her fetters be a strong defence for thee, and her chains a robe of glory.

30 For there is a golden ornament upon her, and her bands are purple-lace.

31 Thou shalt put her on as a robe of honour: and shalt put her about thee as a crown of joy.

32 My son, if thou wilt, thou shalt be taught: and if thou wilt apply thy mind, thou shalt be prudent.

33 If thou love to hear, thou shalt receive understanding, and if thou bow thine ear, thou shalt be wise.

34 Stand in the multitude of the elders, and cleave unto him that is wise.

35 Be willing to hear every godly discourse, and let not the parables of understanding escape thee.

36 And if thou see a man of understanding, get thee betimes unto him, and let thy foot wear the steps of his door.

37 Let thy mind be upon the ordinances of the Lord, and meditate continually in his commandments: he shall establish thine heart, and give thee wisdom at thine own desire.

#### C H A P. VII.

1 *We are deborted from sin, 4 ambition, 8 presumption, 10 and fainting in prayer.*

**D**O no evil, so shall no harm come unto thee.

2 Depart from the unjust, and iniquity shall turn away from thee.

3 My son sow not upon the furrows of unrighteousness, and thou shalt not reap them seven-fold.

4 Seek not of the Lord pre-eminence, neither of the king the seat of honour.

5 Justify not thyself before the Lord, and boast not of thy wisdom before the king.

6 Seek not to be judge, being not able to take away iniquity, lest at any time thou fear the person of the mighty, and lay a stumbling-block in the way of thy uprightness.

7 Offend not against the multitude of a city,

20 *Understanding.]* Margin, Heart.

21 *She will lie upon him as a mighty stone of trial.]* It was customary in Judea, (See Zach. ch. xii. 3.) to have a great stone in most of the towns and villages, for the young men to make a trial of their strength, by lifting it up as high as they could. To this stone of trial, wisdom is here compared.

24 *Her chain.]* Or, collar.

28 *At the last thou shalt find her rest, &c.]* This is more clearly expressed in some versions: "For at the last thou shalt find pleasure in her."

30 *Her bands are purple lace.]* Or, a ribband of blue silk.

This seems to intimate, that tho' wisdom be described as a woman, yet she is of a manly nature; for this ribband of blue was peculiar to the men's dress. Numb. xv. 38.

#### NOTES on Chap. VII.

Ver. 3 *Thou shalt not reap them seven-fold.]* Do no injustice or evil, lest others, God so ordering it for thy just punishment, should repay thee seven-fold.

7 *Then thou shalt not cast thyself down among the people.]* It should be rendered, neither cast thyself down among the people; i. e. Neither dishonour thyself by imitating the

city, and then thou shalt not cast thyself down among the people.

8 Bind not one sin upon another, for in one thou shalt not be unpunished.

9 Say not, God will look upon the multitude of my oblations, and when I offer to the most high God, he will accept it.

10 Be not faint-hearted when thou makest thy prayer, and neglect not to give alms.

11 Laugh no man to scorn in the bitterness of his soul: for there is one which humbleth and exalteth.

12 Devise not a lie against thy brother: neither do the like to thy friend.

13 Use not to make any manner of lie: for the custom thereof is not good.

14 Use not many words in a multitude of elders, and make not much babbling when thou prayest.

15 Hate not laborious work, neither husbandry, which the most High hath ordained.

16 Number not thyself among the multitude of sinners, but remember that wrath will not tarry long.

17 Humble thy soul greatly: for the vengeance of the ungodly is fire and worms.

18 Change not a friend for any good by no means: neither a faithful brother for the gold of Ophir.

19 Forego not a wife and good woman; for her grace is above gold.

20 Whereas thy servant worketh truly, entreat him not evil, nor the hireling that bestoweth himself wholly for thee.

21 Let thy soul love a good servant, and defraud him not of liberty.

22 Hast thou cattle? have an eye to them: and if they be for thy profit, keep them with thee.

23 Hast thou children? instruct them, and bow down their neck from their youth.

24 Hast thou daughters? have a care of their body, and shew not thyself cheerful toward them.

25 Marry thy daughter, and so shalt thou have performed a weighty matter: but give her to a man of understanding.

26 Hast thou a wife after thy mind? forsake her not: but give not thyself over to a light woman.

27 Honour thy father with thy whole heart, and forget not the sorrows of thy mother.

28 Remember that thou wast begot of them, and how canst thou recompence them the things that they have done for thee?

29 Fear the Lord with all thy soul, and reverence his priests.

30 Love him that made thee with all thy strength, and forsake not his ministers.

31 Fear the Lord, and honour the priest; and give him his portion, as it is commanded thee: the first-fruits, and the trespass-offering, and the gift of the shoulders, and the sacrifice of sanctification, and the first-fruits of the holy things.

32 And stretch thine hand unto the poor, that thy blessing may be perfected.

33 A gift hath grace in the sight of every man living, and for the dead detain it not.

34 Fail not to be with them that weep, and mourn with them that mourn.

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35 Be

vices of the multitude, or by an abject flattery of them, or mean compliance with them.

14 *Much babbling.*] Margin, Vain repetitions.

15 *Which the most High hath ordained.*] Greek, Created.

17 *Humble thy soul greatly, for the vengeance of the ungodly is fire and worms.*] The Syriac and Arabic versions render it, "Humble thyself greatly, for the end of all men is worms and corruption; and this is a reason for being humble."

18 *Change not a friend for any good, &c.*] Or, as it is in some copies, For any price or money.

24 *Shew not thyself cheerful towards them.*] Be not too indulgent, or over-fond of them; nor grant them any liberty they may wish for.

26 *A light woman*] Or, hateful,

32 *Thy blessing.*] Or, thy liberality.

34 *Fail not to be with them that weep, &c.*] Or, as some versions render it, "Be conversant with them that mourn."



35 Be not slow to visit the sick : for that shall make thee to be beloved.

36 Whatsoever thou takest in hand, remember the end, and thou shalt never do amiss.

### CHAP. VIII.

1 *Whom we may not strive with, 8 nor despise, 10 nor provoke, 15 nor have to do with.*

**S**TRIVE not with a mighty man, lest thou fall into his hands.

2 Be not at variance with a rich man, lest he overweigh thee : for gold hath destroyed many, and perverted the hearts of kings.

3 Strive not with a man that is full of tongue, and heap not wood upon his fire.

4 Jest not with a rude man, lest thy ancestors be disgraced.

5 Reproach not a man that turneth from sin, but remember that we are all worthy of punishment.

6 Dishonour not a man in his old age : for even some of us wax old.

7 Rejoice not over thy greatest enemy being dead, but remember that we die all.

8 Despise not the discourse of the wise, but acquaint thyself with their proverbs ; for of them thou shalt learn instruction, and how to serve great men with ease.

9 Mispis not the discourse of the elders : for they also learned of their fathers, and of them thou shalt learn understanding, and to give answer as need requireth.

10 Kindle not the coals of a sinner, lest thou be burnt with the flame of his fire.

11 Rise not up [in anger] at the presence of an injurious person, lest he lie in wait to entrap thee in thy words.

12 Lend not unto him that is mightier than thyself : for if thou lendest him, count it but lost.

13 Be not surety above thy power : for if thou be surety, take care to pay it.

14 Go not to law with a judge, for they will judge for him according to his honour.

15 Travel not by the way with a bold fellow, lest he become grievous unto thee : for he will do according to his own will, and thou shalt perish with him through his folly.

16 Strive not with an angry man, and go not with him into a solitary place ; for blood is as nothing in his sight, and where there is no help, he will overthrow thee.

17 Consult not with a fool, for he cannot keep counsel.

18 Do no secret thing before a stranger, for thou knowest not what he will bring forth.

19 Open not thine heart to every man, lest he requite thee with a shrewd turn.

### CHAP. IX.

1 *We are advised how to use our wives ; 3 What women to avoid : 10 and not to change an old friend : 13 Not to be familiar with men in authority : 14 But to know*

36 *Remember the end, and thou shalt never do amiss.*] Some versions give this a different sense, namely, "Remember thy end," i. e. Meditate on death, and on what shall follow. This seems to agree best with the conclusion of the verse.

### NOTES on Chap. VIII.

Ver 3. *Full of tongue.*] Or, of an evil tongue.

10 *Kindle not the coals of a sinner, lest thou be burnt with the flames of his fire.*] The oriental versions understand this

of keeping company with sinners, and suffering by their evil communication.

11 *Rise not up (in anger) at the presence of an injurious person, &c.*] The words *in anger*, are superfluous ; the true meaning is, Rise not up to speak to a perverse quarrelsome man, lest, thro' some artifice, he entrap thee in thy words.

14 *According to his honour.*] Or, opinion.

18 *Do no secret thing before a stranger, &c.*] The sense of the Greek is, Do not trust a secret to a stranger ; for you do not know whether he will prove faithful or perfidious.

*know our neighbours : 15 And to converse with wise men.*

**B**E not jealous over the wife of thy bosom, and teach her not an evil lesson against thyself.

2 Give not thy soul unto a woman to set her foot upon thy substance.

3 Meet not with an harlot, lest thou fall into her snares.

4 Use not much the company of a woman that is a finger, lest thou be taken with her attempts.

5 Gaze not on a maid, that thou fall not by those things that are precious in her.

6 Give not thy soul unto harlots, that thou lose not thine inheritance.

7 Look not round about thee in the streets of the city, neither wander thou in the solitary places thereof.

8 Turn away thine eye from a beautiful woman, and look not upon another's beauty: for many have been deceived by the beauty of a woman, for herewith love is kindled as a fire.

9 Sit not at all with another man's wife, nor sit down with her in thine arms, and spend not thy money with her at the wine; lest thine heart incline unto her, and so through thy desire thou fall into destruction.

10 Forsake not an old friend, for the new is not comparable to him: a new friend is as new wine; when it is old, thou shalt drink it with pleasure.

11 Envy not the glory of a sinner: for thou knowest not what shall be his end.

12 Delight not in the thing that the ungodly have pleasure in; but remember they shall not go unpunished unto their grave.

13 Keep thee far from the man that hath power to kill, so shalt thou not doubt the fear of death: and if thou come unto him, make no fault, lest he take away thy life presently: remember that thou goest in the midst of snares, and that thou walkest upon the battlements of the city.

14 As near as thou canst, guess at thy neighbour, and consult with the wise.

15 Let thy talk be with the wise; and all thy communication in the law of the most High.

16 And let just men eat and drink with thee; and let thy glorying be in the fear of the Lord.

17 For the hand of the artificer, the work shall be commended: and the wife ruler of the people, for his speech.

18 A man of an ill tongue is dangerous in his city; and he that is rash in his talk shall be hated.

#### C H A P. X.

1 *The commodities of a wise ruler. 7 The inconveniencies of pride, injustice, and covetousness.*

**A** WISE judge will instruct his people, and the government of a prudent man is well ordered.

2 As the judge of the people is himself, so are his officers; and what manner of man the ruler of the city is, such are all they that dwell therein.

3 An unwise king destroyeth his people; but

#### NOTES on Chap. IX.

Ver. 2 *Give not thy soul unto a woman, &c.*] Give not thy soul up so much to a woman, as to let her get the ascendant over thee. Some versions render it, "Do not so doat on a woman as to part with thy just authority, lest she assume that power which belongs to thee."

4 *That is a finger.*] Margin, Or that playeth upon instruments.

12 *Remember they shall not go unpunished unto their grave.*] The meaning, according to the Greek, is rather, "They shall not be found just unto their grave." i. e. They shall not be esteemed such to their death.

13 *So shalt thou not doubt the fear of death.*] i. e. Thou wilt not run the hazard of losing thy life.

14 *As near as thou canst guess at thy neighbour, &c.*] The meaning is, we must make all necessary enquiry concerning, and try him in all possible instances.



but through the prudence of them which are in authority, the city shall be inhabited.

4 The power of the earth is in the hand of the Lord, and in due time he will set over it one that is profitable.

5 In the hand of God is the prosperity of man: and upon the person of the scribe shall he lay his honour.

6 Bear not hatred to thy neighbour for every wrong, and do nothing at all by injurious practices.

7 Pride is hateful before God and man: and by both doth one commit iniquity.

8 Because of unrighteous dealings, injuries, and riches got by deceit, the kingdom is translated from one people to another.

9 Why is earth and ashes proud? There is not a more wicked thing than a covetous man: for such an one setteth his own soul to sale, because while he liveth, he casteth away his bowels.

10 The physician cutteth off a long disease; and he that is to-day a king, to-morrow shall die.

11 For when a man is dead, he shall inherit creeping things, beasts, and worms.

12 The beginning of pride is, when one departeth from God, and his heart is turned away from his Maker.

13 For pride is the beginning of sin, and he that hath it shall pour out abomination: and therefore the Lord brought upon them strange calamities, and overthrew them utterly.

14 The Lord hath cast down the thrones

of proud princes, and set up the meek in their stead.

15 The Lord hath plucked up the roots of the proud nations, and planted the lowly in their place.

16 The Lord overthrew countries of the heathen, and destroyed them to the foundations of the earth.

17 He took some of them away, and destroyed them, and hath made their memorial to cease from the earth.

18 Pride was not made for men, nor furious anger for them that are born of a woman.

19 They that fear the Lord are a sure seed, and they that love him, an honourable plant: they that regard not the law, are a dishonourable seed; they that transgress the commandments, are a deceivable seed.

20 Among brethren, he that is chief is honourable, so are they that fear the Lord in his eyes.

21 The fear of the Lord goeth before the obtaining of authority: but roughness and pride is the losing thereof.

22 Whether he be rich, noble, or poor, their glory is the fear of the Lord.

23 It is not meet to despise the poor man that hath understanding, neither is it convenient to magnify a sinful man.

24 Great men, and judges, and potentates shall be honoured, yet is there none of them greater than he that feareth the Lord.

25 Unto the servant that is wise shall they

### NOTES ON Chap. X.

Ver. 5 *Upon the person.*] Or, face.

6 *Do nothing at all by injurious practices.*] Rather, according to the Greek, "Act nothing in a haughty manner."

7 *Pride is hateful before God and man: and by both doth one commit iniquity.*] Grotius reads, "Injustice offends against both;" i. e. God and man: this exposition is agreeable to the context, and confirmed by the oriental versions.

9 *While he liveth, he casteth away his bowels, &c.*] The

sense seems to be, that the covetous man, for the sake of getting wealth, exposes his life, liberty, and repose: he, as it were, tears out his own bowels.

13 *He that bath it, shall pour out abomination, &c.*] i. e. He will be guilty of many crimes, and pour out a torrent of wickedness.

18 *Pride was not made for man, &c.*] The Greek is, "Pride was not created in man."

19 *A deceivable seed.*] Margin, An unstable generation.

21 *The obtaining of authority,*] Or, principality.

they that are free do service : and he that hath knowledge, will not grudge when he is reformed.

26 Be not overwise in doing thy business, and boast not thyself in the time of thy distress.

27 Better is he that laboureth and aboundeth in all things, than he that boasteth himself, and wanteth bread.

28 My son, glorify thy soul in meekness, and give it honour according to the dignity thereof.

29 Who will justify him that sinneth against his own soul ? and who will honour him that dishonoureth his own life ?

30 The poor man is honoured for his skill, and the rich man is honoured for his riches.

31 He that is honoured in poverty, how much more in riches ? and he that is dishonourable in riches, how much more in poverty ?

#### CHAP. XI.

1 *We may not vaunt nor set forth ourselves, 8 nor answer rashly, 10 nor meddle with many matters. 14 Wealth and all things else are from God. 24 Brag not of thy wealth, nor bring every man into thy house.*

**W**ISDOM lifteth up the head of him that is of low degree, and maketh him to sit among great men.

2 Commend not a man for his beauty, neither abhor a man for his outward appearance.

3 The bee is little among such as fly, but her fruit is the chief of sweet things.

4 Boast not of thy clothing and raiment, and exalt not thyself in the day of honour : for the works of the Lord are wonderful, and his works among men are hidden.

5 Many kings have sat down upon the ground, and one that was never thought of, hath worn the crown.

6 Many mighty men have been greatly disgraced : and the honourable delivered into other men's hands.

7 Blame not before thou hast examined the truth : understand first, and then rebuke.

8 Answer not before thou hast heard the cause : neither interrupt men in the midst of their talk.

9 Strive not in a matter that concerneth thee not : and sit not in judgment with sinners.

10 My son, meddle not with many matters : for if thou meddle much, thou shalt not be innocent : and if thou follow after, thou shalt not obtain, neither shalt thou escape by fleeing.

11 There is one that laboureth and taketh pains, and maketh haste, and is so much the more behind.

12 Again, there is another that is slow and hath need of help, wanting ability, and full of poverty ; yet the eye of the Lord looked upon him for good, and set him up from his low estate.

13 And lifted up his head from misery, so that many that saw it marvelled at him.

14 Prosperity and adversity, life and death, poverty and riches, come of the Lord.

2 R

Wisdom

28 *Glorify thy soul in meekness.*] The meaning is, that we should neither be puffed up with pride, nor yet have too contemptible an opinion of ourselves.

#### NOTES ON CHAP. XI.

Ver. 1 *Of him that is of low degree.*] Margin, Of the lowly.

5 *Many kings have sat down upon the ground, &c.*] In the Greek, it is, "Many tyrants, &c." i. e. have been driven

from their thrones, and reduced to sit on the bare ground, in a forlorn and deplorable condition.

9 *Sit not in judgment with sinners.*] The sense seems either to be, that we ought not to sit on the bench with corrupt judges ; or, applied to private life, that we ought not to associate or consult with sinners. The margin reads, "Sit not in the judgment of sinners."

10 *If thou meddle much, thou shalt not be innocent.*] Rather, Thou shalt not be unhurt.

*Neither shalt thou escape.*] Margin, Escape hurt.



15 Wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of the law, are of the Lord : love, and the way of good works, are from him.

16 Error and darkness had their beginning together with sinners : and evil shall wax old with them that glory therein.

17 The gift of the Lord remaineth with the godly, and his favour bringeth prosperity for ever.

18 There is that waxeth rich by his wares and pinching, and this is the portion of his reward.

19 Whereas he saith, I have found rest, and now will eat continually of my goods, and yet he knoweth not what time shall come upon him, and that he must leave those things to others, and die.

20 Be steadfast in thy covenant, and be conversant therein, and wax old in thy work.

21 Marvel not at the works of sinners, but trust in the Lord, and abide in thy labour : for it is an easy thing in the sight of the Lord, on the sudden to make a poor man rich.

22 The blessing of the Lord is in the reward of the godly, and suddenly he maketh his blessing to flourish.

23 Say not, What profit is there of my service ? and what good things shall I have hereafter ?

24 Again, say not, I have enough, and possess many things, and what evil can come to me hereafter ?

25 In the day of prosperity there is a forgetfulness of affliction : and in the day of affliction there is no more remembrance of prosperity.

26 For it is an easy thing unto the Lord in the day of death, to reward a man according to his ways.

27 The affliction of an hour maketh a

man forget pleasure : and in his end his deeds shall be discovered.

28 Judge none blessed before his death : for a man shall be known in his children.

29 Bring not every man into thine house : for the deceitful man hath many trains.

30 Like as a partridge taken [and kept] in a cage, so is the heart of the proud ; and like as a spy, watcheth he for thy fall.

31 For he lieth in wait, and turneth good into evil, and in things worthy praise will lay blame upon thee.

32 Of a spark of fire a heap of coals is kindled : and a sinful man layeth wait for blood.

33 Take heed of a mischievous man (for he worketh wickedness) lest he bring upon thee a perpetual blot.

34 Receive a stranger into thine house, and he will disturb thee, and turn thee out of thine own.

## CHAP. XII.

2 Be not liberal to the ungodly. 10 Trust not thine enemy, nor the wicked.

**W**HEN thou wilt do good, know to whom thou doest it : so shalt thou be thanked for thy benefits.

2 Do good to the godly man, and thou shalt find a recompence ; and if not from him, yet from the most High.

3 There can no good come to him that is always occupied in evil : nor to him that giveth no alms.

4 Give to the godly man, and help not a sinner.

5 Do well unto him that is lowly, but give not to the ungodly : hold back thy bread, and give it not unto him, lest he overmaster thee thereby. For [else] thou shalt receive twice as much evil for all the good thou shalt have done unto him.

6 For

16 Error and darkness had their beginning together with sinners.] The true sense seems to be, that error or darkness of mind is joined with an habit of sinning.

19 What time shall come, &c.] Margin, Pass.

22 In the reward, &c.] Margin, For a reward.

6 For the most High hateth sinners, and will repay vengeance unto the ungodly, and keepeth them against the mighty day of their punishment.

7 Give unto the good, and help not the sinner.

8 A friend cannot be known in prosperity, and an enemy cannot be hidden in adversity.

9 In the prosperity of a man enemies will be grieved: but in his adversity even a friend will depart.

10 Never trust thine enemy: for like as iron rusteth, so is his wickedness.

11 Though he humble himself, and go crouching, yet take good heed and beware of him, and thou shalt be unto him, as if thou hadst wiped a looking-glass, and thou shalt know that his rust hath not been altogether wiped away.

12 Set him not by thee, lest when he hath overthrown thee, he stand up in thy place; neither let him sit at thy right hand, lest he seek to take thy seat, and thou at the last remember my words, and be pricked therewith.

13 Who will pity a charmer that is bitten with a serpent, or any such as come nigh wild beasts?

14 So one that goeth to a sinner, and is defiled with him in his sins, who will pity?

15 For a while he will abide with thee, but if thou begin to fall, he will not tarry.

16 An enemy speaketh sweetly with his lips, but in his heart he imagineth how to

throw thee into a pit: he will weep with his eyes, but if he find opportunity, he will not be satisfied with blood.

17 If adversity come upon thee, thou shalt find him there first, and though he pretend to help thee, yet shall he undermine thee.

18 He will shake his head, and clap his hands, and whisper much, and change his countenance.

### C H A P. XIII.

1 *Keep not company with the proud, or a mightier than thyself.* 15 *Like will to like.*

21 *The difference between the rich and the poor.* 25 *A mans heart will change his countenance.*

**H**E that toucheth pitch shall be defiled therewith, and he that hath fellowship with a proud man, shall be like unto him.

2 Burden not thyself above thy power, while thou livest, and have no fellowship with one that is mightier and richer than thyself. For how agree the kettle and the earthen pot together? for if the one be smitten against the other, it shall be broken.

3 The rich man hath done wrong, and yet he threateneth withal: the poor is wronged, and he must intreat also.

4 If thou be for his profit, he will use thee: but if thou have nothing, he will forsake thee.

5 If thou have any thing, he will live with thee: yea, he will make thee bare, and will not be sorry for it.

6 If

### NOTES on Chap. XII.

Ver. 10. *As iron rusteth, &c.*] Margin, *As brass.*

11 *Thou shalt be unto him, as if thou hadst wiped a looking-glass, &c.*] Thou shalt find the case to be the same with him as in wiping a mirror of polished metal that has once been rusted, which though you take a great deal of pains about, and think you have got clean, yet you still find in it some spots of rust. So you will find the hatred of a man of an evil disposition, whom you have once been at enmity with, will still lurk in him, though he puts on the show of friendship; and that his malice toward you will still break

out afresh whenever he has an opportunity to injure you. The word *mirror* should have been used instead of looking-glass, for anciently they made use of polished metal generally for the same purpose as we now do glass.

14 *And is defiled with him.*] Margin, *Mingled.*

17 *Yet shall he undermine thee*] Or, supplant thee.

### NOTES on Chap. XIII.

Ver. 2. *If one be smitten against the other, it shall be broken.*] Greek, "This shall smite against it, and be broken."



6 If he have need of thee, he will deceive thee, and smile upon thee, and put thee in hope, he will speak thee fair, and say, What wantest thou?

7 And he will shame thee by his meats, until he have drawn thee dry twice or thrice, and at the last he will laugh thee to scorn: afterward when he seeth thee, he will forsake thee, and shake his head at thee.

8 Beware that thou be not deceived, and brought down in thy jollity.

9 If thou be invited of a mighty man, withdraw thyself, and so much the more will he invite thee.

10 Press thou not upon him, lest thou be put back; stand not far off, lest thou be forgotten.

11 Affect not to be made equal unto him in talk, and believe not his many words: for with much communication will he tempt thee, and smiling upon thee will get out thy secrets:

12 But cruelly he will lay up thy words, and will not spare to do thee hurt, and to put thee in prison.

13 Observe and take good heed, for thou walkest in peril of thy overthrowing: when thou hearest these things awake in thy sleep.

14 Love the Lord all thy life, and call upon him for thy salvation.

15 Every beast loveth his like, and every man loveth his neighbour.

16 All flesh comforteth according to kind, and a man will cleave to his like.

17 What fellowship hath the wolf with the lamb? so the sinner with the godly.

18 What agreement is there between the hyena and a dog? and what peace between the rich and the poor?

19 As the wild ass is the lions prey in the wilderness: so the rich eat up the poor.

20 As the proud hate humility: so doth the rich abhor the poor.

21 A rich man beginning to fall, is held up of his friends: but a poor man being down, is thrust also away by his friends.

22 When a rich man is fallen, he hath many helpers: he speaketh things not to be spoken, and yet men justify him: the poor man slipt, and yet they rebuked him too; he spake wisely, and could have no place.

23 When a rich man speaketh, every man holdeth his tongue, and look what he saith, they extol it to the clouds: but if the poor man speak, they say, What fellow is this? and if he stumble, they will help to overthrow him.

24 Riches are good unto him that hath no sin, and poverty is evil in the mouth of the ungodly.

25 The heart of a man changeth his countenance, whether it be for good or evil: and a merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance.

26 A cheerful countenance is a token of a heart that is in prosperity, and the finding out of parables is a wearisome labour of the mind.

## CHAP.

7 *He will shame thee by his meats, &c.*] He will provoke thee by the sumptuousness of his entertainments, to treat him in like manner, which will occasion much expence to thee; so that two or three times treating him will drain thy purse.

8 *In thy jollity.*] Margin, By the simplicity.

9 *Withdraw thyself, &c.*] By the expression *withdraw thyself*, seems to be meant, take your leave of him in a short time, or as soon as you can with decency, lest you should disgust him by staying long.

11 *Affect not, &c.*] Margin, Forbear not, &c.

*And believe, &c.*] But believe.

23 *If he stumble, they will help to overthrow him.*] i. e. If he says any thing that is the least amiss, or not quite agreeable, they will catch hold of it, and employ it to his disadvantage, so as to overthrow, if they can, all he has been saying; and for a few words amiss, they will condemn the whole.

24 *Riches are good unto him that hath no sin.*] Or, riches are good in which there is no sin; i. e. which are got honestly.

## C H A P. XIV.

- 1 *A good conscience maketh men happy.* 5  
*The niggard doeth good to none.* 13 *But*  
*do thou good.* 20 *Men are happy that*  
*draw near to wisdom.*

**B**LESSED is the man that hath not  
 slipt with his mouth, and is not pricked  
 with the multitude of sins.

2 Blessed is he whose conscience hath not  
 condemned him, and who is not fallen from  
 his hope in the Lord.

3 Riches are not comely for a niggard:  
 and what should an envious man do with  
 money?

4 He that gathereth by defrauding his  
 own soul, gathereth for others that shall  
 spend his goods riotously.

5 He that is evil to himself, to whom  
 will he be good? he shall not take pleasure  
 in his goods.

6 There is none worse than he that envi-  
 eth himself, and this is a recompence of his  
 wickedness.

7 And if he doeth good, he doeth it un-  
 willingly, and at the last he will declare his  
 wickedness.

8 The envious man hath a wicked eye, he  
 turneth away his face, and despiseth men.

9 A covetous man's eye is not satisfied with

his portion, and the iniquity of the wicked  
 drieth up his soul.

10 A wicked eye envieth [his] bread,  
 and he is a niggard at his table.

11 My son, according to thy ability do  
 good to thyself, and give the Lord his due  
 offering.

12 Remember that death will not be long  
 in coming, and that the covenant of the grave  
 is not shewed unto thee.

13 Do good unto thy friend before thou  
 die, and according to thy ability stretch out  
 thy hand and give to him.

14 Defraud not thyself of the good day,  
 and let not the part of a good desire over-  
 pass thee.

15 Shalt thou not leave thy travels unto  
 another? and thy labours to be divided by  
 lot?

16 Give, and take, and sanctify thy soul,  
 for there is no seeking of dainties in the  
 grave.

17 All flesh waxeth old as a garment: for  
 the covenant from the beginning is, Thou  
 shalt die the death.

18 As of the green leaves on a thick tree,  
 some fall and some grow; so is the genera-  
 tion of flesh and blood, one cometh to an end,  
 and another is born.

2 S

19 Every

## NOTES ON Chap. XIV.

Ver. 1. *Blessed is the man—that is not pricked with the*  
*multitude of sins.* Rather, with the multitude of sorrows.

3 *What should an envious man do with money?* The  
 word translated *envious*, here likewise signifies *covetous*. A  
 niggard makes a very despicable figure, however great his  
 riches are; and they are of little or no service if a man  
 has not the spirit to make use of them.

9 *A covetous man's eye is not satisfied, &c.* i. e. He is  
 not satisfied with a part; but he covets the whole of what  
 he sees.

10 *A wicked eye envieth his bread.* A wicked eye was  
 an expression made use of among the Jews to signify a co-  
 vetous person, as a good eye was used to signify a liberal  
 one.

12 *The covenant of the grave is not shewed unto thee.* The  
 day of thy burial is not known to thee.

14 *The good day.* Margin, The feast day.

*Let not the part of a good desire overpass thee.]* By a good  
 desire is meant, presents of eatables, which it was custom-  
 ary among the Jews to send to one another on festival  
 days.

16 *Sanctify thy soul, &c.]* The sense, as it stands in the  
 Vatican edition is, "Live an agreeable life, deceive your  
 cares, and let innocent pleasures and amusements divert  
 any thing that may lay heavy on thy spirits, using such  
 good things as God has blessed thee with, free from in-  
 temperance and luxury, covetousness, and a criminal at-  
 tachment to them."

18 *As of the green leaves, &c.]* Thus Homer:

Like leaves on trees the race of man is found,  
 Now green in youth, now withering on the ground,  
 Another race the following Spring supplies,  
 They fall successive, and successive rise;  
 So generations in their course decay,  
 So flourish these, when those are past away.

POPE.



19 Every work rotteth and consumeth away, and the worker thereof shall go withal.

20 Blessed is the man that doth meditate good things in wisdom, and that reasoneth of holy things by his understanding.

21 He that considereth her ways in his heart, shall also have understanding in her secrets.

22 Go after her as one that traceth, and lie in wait in her ways.

23 He that prieth in at her windows, shall also hearken at her doors.

24 He that doth lodge near her house, shall also fasten a pin in her walls.

25 He shall pitch his tent nigh unto her, and shall lodge in a lodging where good things are.

26 He shall set his children under her shelter, and shall lodge under her branches.

27 By her he shall be covered from heat, and in her glory shall he dwell.

#### CHAP. XV.

2 *Wisdom embraceth those that fear God. 7 The wicked shall not get her. 11 We may not charge God with our faults: 14 For he made, and left us to ourselves.*

**H**E that feareth the Lord will do good, and he that hath the knowledge of the law, shall obtain her.

2 And as a mother shall she meet him, and receive him as a wife married of a virgin.

3 With the bread of understanding shall she feed him, and give him the water of wisdom to drink.

4 He shall be stayed upon her, and shall not be moved, and shall rely upon her, and shall not be confounded.

5 She shall exalt him above his neighbours, and in the midst of the congregation shall she open his mouth.

6 He shall find joy, and a crown of gladness, and she shall cause him to inherit an everlasting name.

7 But foolish men shall not attain unto her, and sinners shall not see her.

8 For she is far from pride, and men that are liars cannot remember her.

9 Praise is not seemly in the mouth of a sinner, for it was not sent him of the Lord.

10 For praise shall be uttered in wisdom, and the Lord will prosper it.

11 Say not thou, It is through the Lord that I fell away: for thou oughtest not to do the things that he hateth.

12 Say not thou, He hath caused me to err: for he hath no need of the sinful man.

13 The Lord hateth all abomination, and they that fear God love it not.

14 He himself made man from the beginning, and left him in the hand of his counsel:

15 If thou wilt, to keep the commandments, and to perform acceptable faithfulness.

16 He hath set fire and water before thee: stretch forth thy hand unto whether thou wilt.

17 Before man is life and death, and whether him liketh shall be given him.

18 For the wisdom of the Lord is great, and

24 *Fasten a pin.] Or, stake.*

#### NOTES on Chap. XV.

Ver. 9 *Praise is not seemly in the mouth of a sinner, &c.]* Margin reads, "A parable or wise saying;" so likewise ver. 10.

4

*For it was not sent him, &c.]* Margin, He was not sent of, &c.

18 *The wisdom of the Lord is great, &c.]* Or, as the Greek properly signifies, *superlative*, and consequently orders every thing with the most consummate wisdom, and hath constituted man with every thing necessary to his happiness, if he is not wanting to himself.

and he is mighty in power, and beholdeth all things.

19 And his eyes are upon them that fear him, and he knoweth every work of man.

20 He hath commanded no man to do wickedly, neither hath he given any man license to sin.

#### C H A P. XVI.

1 *It is better to have none, than many leud children.* 6 *The wicked are not spared for their number.* 12 *Both the wrath and the mercy of the Lord are great.* 17 *The wicked cannot be hid.* 20 *God's works are unfearchable.*

**D**ESIRE not a multitude of unprofitable children, neither delight in ungodly sons.

2 Though they multiply, rejoice not in them, except the fear of the Lord be with them.

3 Trust not thou in their life, neither respect their multitude: for one that is just is better than a thousand, and better it is to die without children, than to have them that are ungodly.

4 For by one that hath understanding, shall the city be replenished: but the kindred of the wicked shall speedily become desolate.

5 Many such things have I seen with mine eyes, and mine ear hath heard greater things than these.

6 In the congregation of the ungodly shall a fire be kindled, and in a rebellious nation wrath is set on fire.

7 He was not pacified towards the old giants, who fell away in the strength of their foolishness.

8 Neither spared he the place where Lot

sojourned, but abhorred them for their pride.

9 He pitied not the people of perdition, who were taken away in their sins:

10 Nor the six hundred thousand footmen, who were gathered together in the hardness of their hearts.

11 And if there be one stiff-necked among the people, it is marvel if he escape unpunished: for mercy and wrath are with him; he is mighty to forgive, and to pour out displeasure.

12 As his mercy is great, so is his correction also: he judgeth a man according to his works.

13 The sinner shall not escape with his spoils, and the patience of the godly shall not be frustrate.

14 Make way for every work of mercy: for every man shall find according to his works.

15 The Lord hardened Pharaoh, that he should not know him, that his powerful works might be known to the world.

16 His mercy is manifest to every creature, and he hath separated his light from the darkness with an adamant.

17 Say not thou, I will hide myself from the Lord: shall any remember me from above? I shall not be remembered among so many people: for what is my soul among such an infinite number of creatures?

18 Behold, the heaven, and the heaven of heavens, the deep, and the earth, and all that therein is, shall be moved when he shall visit.

19 The mountains also, and foundations of the earth shall be shaken with trembling, when the Lord looketh upon them.

20 No

#### NOTES ON CHAP. XVI.

Ver. 4 *The kindred of the wicked.*] Or, tribe.  
6 *Is set on fire.*] Or, hath been.

7 *The old giants.*] i. e. The inhabitants of the world contemporary with Noah. These are called giants in Genesis; probably, from their acts of violence and oppression.  
16 *With an adamant.*] Margin, A strong petition.



20 No heart can think upon these things worthily : and who is able to conceive his ways?

21 It is a tempest which no man can see : for the most part of his works are hid?

22 Who can declare the works of his justice ; or who can endure them ? for his covenant is afar off, and the trial of all things is in the end.

23 He that wanteth understanding, will think upon vain things : and a foolish man erring, imagineth follies.

24 My son, hearken unto me, and learn knowledge, and mark my words with thy heart.

25 I will shew forth doctrine in weight, and declare his knowledge exactly.

26 The works of the Lord are done in judgment from the beginning : and from the time he made them, he disposed the parts thereof.

27 He garnished his works for ever, and in his hand are the chief of them unto all generations : they neither labour, nor are weary, nor cease from their works.

28 None of them hindereth another, and they shall never disobey his word.

29 After this the Lord looked upon the earth, and filled it with his blessings.

30 With all manner of living things hath he covered the face thereof, and they shall return into it again.

#### CHAP. XVII.

1 How God created and furnished man. 14

Avoid all sin : 19 For God seeth all things.

25 Turn to him while thou livest.

THE Lord created man of the earth, and turned him into it again.

2 He gave them few days, and a short time, and power also over the things therein.

3 He endued them with strength by themselves, and made them according to his image,

4 And put the fear of man upon all flesh, and gave him dominion over beasts and fowls.

5 [They received the use of the five operations of the Lord, and in the sixth place he imparted them understanding, and in the seventh, speech, an interpreter of the cogitations thereof.]

6 Counsel, and a tongue, and eyes, ears, and a heart, gave he them to understand.

7 Withal, he filled them with the knowledge of understanding, and shewed them good and evil.

8 He set his eye upon their hearts, that he might shew them the greatness of his works.

9 He gave them to glory in his marvellous acts for ever, that they might declare his works with understanding.

10 And the elect shall praise his holy name.

11 Besides this, he gave them knowledge, and the law of life for an heritage.

12 He made an everlasting covenant with them, and shewed them his judgments.

13 Their eyes saw the majesty of his glory, and their ears heard his glorious voice.

14 And he said unto them, Beware of all

21 *It is a tempest which no man can see, &c.*] This is a fine simile to illustrate the unfearchableness of God ; for a tempest is invisible in itself, we know not the cause or nature of it, tho' the effects are apparent.

25 *I will shew forth doctrine in weight.*] i. e. I will shew it as truly as the balances or scales do the weight of things.

27 *The chief of them*] Margin, The beginnings.

#### NOTES on Chap. XVII.

Ver. 3 *He endued them with strength by themselves, &c.*] Or, "According to themselves," that is, suitable to their nature.

4 *Of man.*] Margin, Of him.

8 *He set his eye upon their hearts, &c.*] i. e. He bestowed

all unrighteousness, and he gave every man commandment concerning his neighbour.

15 Their ways are ever before him, and shall not be hid from his eyes.

16 Every man from his youth is given to evil, neither could they make to themselves fleshy hearts for stony.

17 For in the division of the nations of the whole earth, he set a ruler over every people; but Israel is the Lord's portion:

18 Whom being his first-born he nourisheth with discipline, and giving him the light of his love, doth not forsake him.

19 Therefore all the works are as the sun before him, and his eyes are continually upon their ways.

20 None of their unrighteous deeds are hid from him, but all their sins are before the Lord.

21 But the Lord being gracious, and knowing his workmanship, neither left nor forsook them, but spared them.

22 The alms of a man is as a signet with him, and he will keep the good deeds of man, as the apple of the eye, and give repentance to his sons and daughters.

23 Afterwards he will rise up, and reward them, and render their recompence upon their heads.

24 But unto them that repent, he granted them return, and comforted those that failed in patience.

25 Return unto the Lord, and forsake thy sins, make thy prayer before his face and offend less.

26 Turn again to the most High, and turn away from iniquity: for he will lead thee out of darkness into the light of health,

and hate thou abomination vehemently.

27 Who shall praise the most High in the grave, in stead of them which live and give thanks?

28 Thanksgiving perisheth from the dead, as from one that is not: the living and sound in heart, shall praise the Lord.

29 How great is the loving-kindness of the Lord our God, and his compassion unto such as turn unto him in holiness!

30 For all things cannot be in men, because the son of man is not immortal.

31 What is brighter than the sun? yet the light thereof faileth: and flesh and blood will imagine evil.

32 He vieweth the power of the height of heaven, and all men are but earth and ashes.

#### C H A P. XVIII.

4 *God's works are to be wondered at. 9 Man's life is short. 11 God is merciful.*

15 *Do not blemish thy good deeds with ill words. 22 Defer not to be justified. 30 Follow not thy lusts.*

**H**E that liveth for ever created all things in general.

2 The Lord only is righteous, and there is none other but he.

3 Who governeth the world with the palm of his hand, and all things obey his will: for he is the King of all, by his power dividing holy things among them from profane.

4 To whom hath he given power to declare his works? and who shall find out his noble acts?

5 Who shall number the strength of his  
2 T majesty?

remedies to heal their minds, after evil maxims had corrupted them. The writer here, and in the following verses, seems to depart from mankind in general, and to speak with regard to the Jews only.

25 *And offend less.*] Margin, Lessen thy offence.

26 *Into the light, &c.*] Or, illumination.

#### NOTES on Chap. XVIII.

Ver. 3 *Dividing holy things, &c.*] Discerning the holy things from the profane, or putting a difference between them.



majesty? and who shall also tell out his mercies?

6 As for the wonderous works of the Lord, there may nothing be taken from them, neither may any thing be put unto them, neither can the ground of them be found out:

7 When a man hath done, then he be-  
ginneth: and when he leaveth off, then he shall be doubtful.

8 What is man, and whereto serveth he? what is his good, and what is his evil?

9 The number of a man's days at the most are an hundred years.

10 As a drop of water unto the sea, and a gravel-stone in comparison of the sand, so are a thousand years to the days of eternity.

11 Therefore is God patient with them, and poureth forth his mercy upon them.

12 He saw, and perceived their end to be evil; therefore he multiplied his compassion.

13 The mercy of man is toward his neighbour; but the mercy of the Lord is upon all flesh; he reproveth, and nutureth, and teacheth, and bringeth again as a shepherd his flock.

14 He hath mercy on them that receive discipline, and that diligently seek after his judgments.

15 My son, blemish not thy good deeds, neither use uncomfortable words when thou givest any thing.

16 Shall not the dew assuage the heat? so is a word better than a gift.

17 Lo, is not a word better than a gift? but both are with a gracious man.

18 A fool will upbraid churlishly, and a

gift of the envious consumeth the eyes.

19 Learn before thou speak, and use physick or ever thou be sick.

20 Before judgment examine thyself, and in the day of visitation thou shalt find mercy.

21 Humble thyself before thou be sick, and in the time of sins shew repentance.

22 Let nothing hinder thee to pay thy vow in due time, and defer not until death to be justified.

23 Before thou prayest, prepare thyself; and be not as one that tempteth the Lord.

24 Think upon the wrath that shall be at the end, and the time of vengeance when he shall turn away his face.

25 When thou hast enough, remember the time of hunger; and when thou art rich, think upon poverty and need.

26 From the morning until the evening the time is changed, and all things are soon done before the Lord.

27 A wise man will fear in every thing, and in the day of sinning he will beware of offence: but a fool will not observe time.

28 Every man of understanding knoweth wisdom, and will give praise unto him that found her.

29 They that were of understanding in sayings, became also wise themselves, and poured forth exquisite parables.

30 Go not after thy lusts, but refrain thyself from thine appetites.

31 If thou givest thy soul the desires that please her, she will make thee a laughing-stock to thine enemies that malign thee.

32 Take not pleasure in much good cheer, neither be tied to the expense thereof.

33 Be

7 *When he leaveth off, &c.*] Rather, he shall be confounded or amazed, to find, when he leaves off, how many of the works of God he has omitted.

18 *A gift of the envious consumeth the eyes.*] By the *envious* here is meant *covetous*.

27 *A wise man will fear in every thing, &c.*] A wise

man will be careful to keep from sinning in every thing he says or does, and will in all times and places be upon his guard during a general corruption, that he be not infected with the popular contagion; whilst an inconsiderate man will not observe the occasions for him to be upon his guard.

33 Be not made a beggar by banquetting upon borrowing, when thou hast nothing in thy purse: for thou shalt lie in wait for thine own life, and be talked on.

### C H A P. XIX.

2 *Wine and women seduce wise men.* 7 *Say not all thou bearest.* 17 *Reprove thy friend without anger.* 22 *There is no wisdom in wickedness.*

**A** Labouring man that is given to drunkenness shall not be rich; and he that contemneth small things, shall fall by little and little.

2 Wine and women will make men of understanding to fall away: and he that cleaveth to harlots will become impudent.

3 Moths and worms shall have him to heritage, and a bold man shall be taken away.

4 He that is hasty to give credit is light-minded, and he that sinneth shall offend against his own soul.

5 Whoso taketh pleasure in wickedness shall be condemned: but he that resisteth pleasures, crowneth his life.

6 He that can rule his tongue, shall live without strife, and he that hateth babbling, shall have less evil.

7 Rehearse not unto another that which is told unto thee, and thou shalt fare never the worse.

8 Whether it be to a friend or foe, talk not of other men's lives, and if thou canst without offence, reveal them not.

9 For he heard and observed thee, and when time cometh he will hate thee.

10 If thou hast heard a word, let it die with thee, and be bold, it will not burst thee.

11 A fool travaileth with a word, as a woman in labour of a child.

12 As an arrow that sticketh in a man's thigh, so is a word within a fool's belly.

13 Admonish a friend, it may be he hath not done it: and if he have done it, that he do it no more.

14 Admonish thy friend, it may be he hath not said it: and if he have, that he speak it not again.

15 Admonish a friend: for many times it is a slander, and believe not every tale.

16 There is one that slippeth in his speech, but not from his heart; and who is he that hath not offended with his tongue?

17 Admonish thy neighbour before thou threaten him, and not being angry, give place to the law of the most High.

18 The fear of the Lord is the first step to be accepted [of him] and wisdom obtaineth his love.

19 The knowledge of the commandments of the Lord, is the doctrine of life: and they that do things that please him, shall receive the fruit of the tree of immortality.

20 The fear of the Lord is all wisdom, and in all wisdom is the performance of the law, and the knowledge of his omnipotency.

21 If a servant say to his master, I will not do as it pleaseth thee, though afterward he do it, he angereth him that nourisheth him.

22 The knowledge of wickedness is not wisdom,

### NOTES ON CHAP. XIX.

Ver. 3 *Moths and worms shall have him to heritage.*] A man's lewdness and intemperance will throw him into many diseases; and the dreadful consequences of a vicious life will appear upon his body.

8 *To a friend or foe.*] Margin, Of friend or foe.

*If thou canst without offence, reveal them not.*] Some ver-

sions render it, If there is a fault in thee, reveal it not; or divulge not thy own personal faults.

9 *He will hate thee*] Or, shew his hatred.

12 *Within a fool's belly*] Or, heart.

14 *Admonish, &c.*] Margin, Reprove, &c. and so ver. 17.

16 *Not from his heart.*] Or, willingly.

18 *To be accepted of him.*] Margin, Of receiving him.



wisdom, neither at any time the counsel of sinners prudence.

23 There is a wickedness, and the same an abomination, and there is a fool wanting in wisdom.

24 He that hath small understanding, and feareth God, is better than one that hath much wisdom, and transgresseth the law of the most High.

25 There is an exquisite subtilty, and the same is unjust, and there is one that turneth aside to make judgment appear: and there is a wise man that justifieth in judgment.

26 There is a wicked man that hangeth down his head sadly; but inwardly he is full of deceit.

27 Casting down his countenance, and making as if he heard not: where he is not known, he will do thee a mischief before thou be aware.

28 And if for want of power he be hindered from sinning, yet when he findeth opportunity he will do evil.

29 A man may be known by his look, and one that hath understanding by his countenance, when thou meetest him.

30 A man's attire, and excessive laughter, and gait, shew what he is.

## CHAP. XX.

1 Of silence and speaking. 10 Of gifts and gain. 18 Of slipping by the tongue. 24 Of lying. 27 Of divers advertisements.

THERE is a reproof that is not comely: again some man holdeth his tongue, and he is wise.

2 It is much better to reprove, than to be angry secretly: and he that confesseth his fault, shall be preserved from hurt.

3 How good is it when thou art reprov'd to shew repentance! for so shalt thou escape wilful sin.

4 As is the lust of an eunuch to deflower a virgin; so is he that executeth judgment with violence.

5 There is one that keepeth silence, and is found wise: and another by much babbling becometh hateful.

6 Some man holdeth his tongue, because he hath not to answer: and some keepeth silence, knowing his time.

7 A wise man will hold his tongue, till he see opportunity: but a babler and a fool will regard no time.

8 He that useth many words shall be abhorred; and he that taketh to himself authority therein, shall be hated.

9 There is a sinner that hath good success in evil things; and there is again that turneth to loss.

10 There is a gift that shall not profit thee; and there is a gift whose recompence is double.

11 There is an abasement because of glory; and there is that lifteth up his head from a low estate.

12 There

25 *There is one that turneth aside to make judgment appear.*] Or, better rendered thus, There is one that perverteth, or turneth upside down, that he may pronounce judgment in favour of him to whom he is inclined. This seems to be spoken of those who, by their knowledge and nice distinctions in the law, know how to take an advantage of those who are less skilful; and so to obscure things as to make evil appear good, or good evil.

*There is a wise man that justifieth in judgment.*] Or, judgeth. This may be better rendered, He that acteth righteously in judgment is wise.

26 *Sadly.*] Margin, In black.

## NOTES on Chap. XX.

Ver. 1. *There is a reproof that is not comely, &c.*] Or, as the margin has it, That is not seasonable. To know when to be silent, and to observe the proper season of giving reproof, shews the judgment of a man.

9. *There is a sinner that hath good success in evil things, &c.*] The reading of some editions is to be preferred to this; namely, good sometimes arises from evil things; and this keeps up the antithesis of the following sentence.

12 There is that buyeth much for a little, and repayeth it seven-fold.

13 A wise man by his words maketh himself beloved: but the graces of fools shall be poured out.

14 The gift of a soul shall do thee no good when thou hast it; neither yet of the envious for his necessity: for he looketh to receive many things for one.

15 He giveth little and uphraideth much, he openeth his mouth like a crier; to day he lendeth, and to morrow will he ask it again: such a one is to be hated of God and man.

16 The fool saith, I have no friends, I have no thank for all my good deeds, and they that eat my bread speak evil of me.

17 How oft, and of how many shall he be laughed to scorn! for he knoweth not aright what it is to have; and it is all one unto him, as if he had it not.

18 To slip upon a pavement, is better than to slip with the tongue: so the fall of the wicked shall come speedily.

19 An unseasonable tale will always be in the mouth of the unwise.

20 A wise sentence shall be rejected when it cometh out of a fools mouth: for he will not speak it in due season.

21 There is that is hindered from sinning through want: and when he taketh rest, he shall not be troubled.

22 There is that destroyeth his own soul

through bashfulness, and by accepting of persons overthroweth himself.

23 There is that for bashfulness promiseth to his friend, and maketh him his enemy for nothing.

24 A lie is a foul blot in a man, yet it is continually in the mouth of the untaught.

25 A thief is better than a man that is accustomed to lie: but they both shall have destruction to heritage.

26 The disposition of a liar is dishonourable, and his shame is ever with him.

27 A wise man shall promote himself to honour with his words: and he that hath understanding will please great men.

28 He that tilleth his land, shall increase his heap: and he that pleaseth great men, shall get pardon for iniquity.

29 Presents and gifts blind the eyes of the wise, and stop up his mouth that he cannot reprove.

30 Wisdom that is hid, and treasure that is hoarded up, what profit is in them both?

31 Better is he that hideth his folly, than a man that hideth his wisdom.

32 Necessary patience in seeking the Lord, is better than he that leadeth his life without a guide.

## CHAP. XXI.

2 Flee from sin as from a serpent. 4 His oppression will undo the rich. 9 The end of the unjust shall be naught. 12 The differences between the fool and the wise.

2 U

MY

12 *There is that buyeth much for a little, &c.*] This is spoken of such, as out of a covetous temper, buy what is not good, for the sake of having it cheap: such people generally pay for their cheap bargains seven-fold.

13 *The graces.*] Margin, Pleasant conceits.

*Shall be poured out.*] Lost, or spilt.

14 *He looketh to receive many things for one.*] Greek, For his eyes are many for one to receive.

19 *An unseasonable tale.*] Margin, An unpleasant fellow.

21 *There is that is hindered from sinning through want.*] There are many who are regular only through necessity, who would have taken the same liberties as others have

done, if they had the same opportunity and power.

*Shall not be troubled.*] Margin, Shall not be pricked.

25 *A thief is better than a man that is accustomed to lie, &c.*] The writer does not mean to excuse or justify the thief, but to expose the liar, through the odiousness of the comparison: for he says in the following sentence, that they are both wont to perish miserably. We may state the comparison thus: The thief only takes away a man's money, the liar robs him of his reputation, which is more valuable than riches.

26 *Is dishonourable.*] Or, ignominy.

29 *And stop up his mouth.*] Margin, As a muzzle in the mouth.



**M**Y son, hast thou sinned? do so no more, but ask pardon for thy former sins.

2 Flee from sin as from the face of a serpent: for if thou comest too near it, it will bite thee: the teeth thereof are as the teeth of a lion, slaying the souls of men.

3 All iniquity is as a two-edged sword, the wounds whereof cannot be healed.

4 To terrify and do wrong, will waste riches: thus the house of proud men shall be made desolate.

5 A prayer out of a poor man's mouth reacheth to the ears of God, and his judgment cometh speedily.

6 He that hateth to be reprov'd, is in the way of sinners: but he that feareth the Lord, will repent from his heart.

7 An eloquent man is known far and near, but a man of understanding knoweth when he slippeth.

8 He that buildeth his house with other men's money, is like one that gathereth himself stones for the tomb of his burial.

9 The congregation of the wicked is like tow wrapped together: and the end of them is a flame of fire to destroy them.

10 The way of sinners is made plain with stones, but at the end thereof is the pit of hell.

11 He that keepeth the law of the Lord, getteth the understanding thereof: and the perfection of the fear of the Lord is wisdom.

12 He that is not wise, will not be taught: but there is a wisdom which multiplieth bitterness.

13 The knowledge of a wise man shall abound like a flood: and his counsel is like a pure fountain of life.

14 The inner parts of a fool are like a broken vessel, and he will hold no knowledge as long as he liveth.

15 If a skilful man hear a wise word, he will commend it, and add unto it: but as soon as one of no understanding heareth it, it displeaseth him, and he casteth it behind his back.

16 The talking of a fool is like a burden in the way: but grace shall be found in the lips of the wise.

17 They enquire at the mouth of the wise man in the congregation, and they shall ponder his words in their heart.

18 As is a house that is destroyed, so is wisdom to a fool: and the knowledge of the unwise is as talk without sense.

19 Doctrine unto fools is as fetters on the feet, and like manacles on the right hand.

20 A fool lifteth up his voice with laughter, but a wise man doth scarce smile a little.

21 Learning is unto a wise man as an ornament of gold, and like a bracelet upon his right arm.

22 A foolish man's foot is soon in his [neighbours] house: but a man of experience is ashamed of him.

23 A

#### NOTES on Chap. XXI.

Ver: 4 *To terrify and do wrong, will waste riches, &c.*] The proud and insolent oppresses the weak for a time, but by such imperious usage they create themselves enemies; and the great number of those who they insulted and injured, will at length join together, and prove their overthrow.

5 *A Prayer out of a poor man's mouth, reacheth, &c.*] The words (of God) are not in any Greek copy, and therefore the sense is, That the prayer of the poor reacheth only to the ears of the proud man, but does not touch his heart, and is disregarded by him; so that the proud man's judgment shall come speedily upon him.

6 *Will repent.*] Greek, Be converted.

8 *He that buildeth his house with other men's money, &c.*] He is heaping up ruin to himself. This alludes to the ancient custom of heaping up stones over the graves of persons remarkable for some crime, to perpetuate their infamy, and shew the public abhorrence for them.

10 *The way of sinners is made plain with stones.*] It is like a paved way to walk in, but the end thereof is the pit of the grave; i. e. It leads to death, either through capital punishment inflicted by law, or divine vengeance.

12 *He that is not wise.*] Margin, Witty.

*A wisdom.*] Or, subtilty.

15 *He will—add unto it.*] He will apply it to himself.

18 *Without sense.*] Margin, Not to be enquired after.

23 A fool will peep in at the door into the house, but he that is well-nurtured will stand without.

24 It is the rudeness of a man to hearken at the door: but a wise man will be grieved with the disgrace.

25 The lips of talkers will be telling such things as pertain not unto them: but the words of such as have understanding, are weighed in the balance.

26 The heart of fools is in their mouth, but the mouth of the wise is in their heart.

27 When the ungodly curseth Satan, he curseth his own soul.

28 A whisperer defileth his own soul, and is hated wheresoever he dwelleth.

#### C H A P. XXII.

1 *Of the slothful man, 3 and a foolish daughter. 11 Weep rather for fools, than for the dead. 13 Meddle not with them. 16 The wise man's heart will not shrink. 20 What will lose a friend.*

**A** Slothful man is compared to a filthy stone, and every one will hiss him out to his disgrace.

2 A slothful man is compared to the filth of a dunghill: every man that takes it up, will shake his hand.

3 An evil-nurtured son is the dishonour of his father that begat him: and a [foolish] daughter is born to his loss.

4 A wise daughter shall bring an inheritance to her husband: but she that liveth dishonestly, is her father's heaviness.

5 She that is bold, dishonoureth both her father and her husband, but they both shall despise her.

6 A tale out of season [is as] musick in mourning: but stripes and correction of wisdom are never out of time.

7 Whoso teacheth a fool, is as one that gluethe a potsherd together, and as he that waketh one from a sound sleep.

8 He that telleth a tale to a fool, speaketh to one in a slumber: when he hath told his tale, he will say, What is the matter?

9 If children live honestly, and have wherewithal, they shall cover the baseness of their parents.

10 But children being haughty through disdain and want of nurture, do stain the nobility of their kindred.

11 Weep for the dead, for he hath lost the light: and weep for the fool, for he wanteth understanding: make little weeping for the dead, for he is at rest: but the life of the fool is worse than death.

12 Seven days do men mourn for him that is dead: but for a fool and an ungodly man, all the days of his life.

13 Talk not much with a fool, and go not to him that hath no understanding: beware of him, lest thou have trouble, and thou shalt never be defiled with his fooleries: depart from him, and thou shalt find rest, and never be disquieted with madness.

14 What is heavier than lead? and what is the name thereof, but a fool?

15 Sand

26 *The heart of fools is in their mouth, &c.*] This is very elegantly and strongly expressed.

27 *When the ungodly curseth Satan, he curseth his own soul.*] If by Satan be meant an adversary, accuser, and calumniator, as the context seems to countenance, the meaning is, When a wicked man, or slanderer, blames another, for censoriousness, he condemns himself as an accuser of the brethren.

#### NOTES on Chap. XXII.

Ver. 1 *A slothful man is compared to a filthy stone, &c.*] He is like a stone which falls into the dirt; no body will foul his hands to draw it from thence.

4 *Shall bring an inheritance to her husband.*] Margin, Shall be the heir of her husband.

6 *A tale out of season (is as) musick in mourning, &c.*] By tale here, according to the Greek is meant, any conversation out of season; but stripes and correction of wisdom are never out of time. This may be better rendered, But stripes and correction in season, and properly applied, are acts of wisdom.

9 *And have wherewithal.*] Or, an art.

13 *With his fooleries.*] Margin, When he shakes off his filth.

*Never be disquieted.*] Or, wearied.



15 Sand and salt, and a mass of iron, is easier to bear, than a man without understanding.

16 As timber girt and bound together in a building, cannot be loosed with shaking: so the heart that is stablished by advised counsel, shall fear at no time.

17 A heart settled upon a thought of understanding, is as a fair plaistering on the wall of a gallery.

18 Pales set on an high place will never stand against the wind: so a fearful heart, in the imagination of a fool, cannot stand against any fear.

19 He that pricketh the eye, will make tears to fall: and he that pricketh the heart, maketh it to shew her knowledge.

20 Whoso casteth a stone at the birds, frayeth them away: and he that upbraideth his friend, breaketh friendship.

21 Though thou drewest a sword at thy friend, yet despair not; for there may be a returning [to favour.]

22 If thou hast opened thy mouth against thy friend, fear not: for there may be a reconciliation; except for upbraiding, or pride, or disclosing of secrets, or a treacherous wound: for, for these things every friend will depart.

23 Be faithful to thy neighbour in his poverty, that thou mayest rejoice in his prosperity: abide steadfast unto him in the time of his trouble, that thou mayest be heir with him in his heritage: for a mean estate is not always to be contemned; nor the rich that is foolish, to be had in admiration.

24 As the vapour and smoke of a furnace goeth before the fire; so reviling before blood.

25 I will not be ashamed to defend a friend: neither will I hide myself from him.

26 And if any evil happen unto me by him, every one that heareth it will beware of him.

27 Who shall set a watch before my mouth, and a seal of wisdom upon my lips, that I fall not suddenly by them, and that my tongue destroy me not.

#### CHAP. XXIII.

1 *A prayer for grace to flee sin.* 9 *We may not use swearing:* 14 *But remember our parents.* 16 *Of three sorts of sin.* 23 *The adulterous wife sinneth many ways.*

**O** Lord, Father and Governor of all my whole life, leave me not to their counsels, and let me not fall by them.

2 Who will set scourges over my thoughts, and the discipline of wisdom over mine heart? that they spare me not for mine ignorances, and it pass not by my sins:

3 Lest mine ignorances increase, and my sins abound to my destruction, and I fall before mine adversaries, and mine enemy rejoice over me, whose hope is far from thy mercy.

4 O Lord, Father and God of my life, give me not a proud look, but turn away from thy servants always a haughty mind.

5 Turn away from me vain hopes, and concupiscence, and thou shalt hold him up that is desirous always to serve thee.

6 Let not the greediness of the belly, nor lust

17 *On the wall of a gallery.*] Or, of a polished wall.

23 *That thou mayest rejoice in his prosperity, &c.*] That thou mayest be a partaker of the things which he may have in his power, by a prosperous turn of affairs.

#### NOTES on Chap. XXIII.

Ver. 1 *O Lord, Father and Governor of all my whole life, &c.*] The first part of this chapter contains a prayer for

grace to get the mastery over sin; for strength to subdue pride, vain hopes, concupiscence, a luxurious appetite, and presumptuous impudence. He after this addresses himself to children, advising them to set a guard on their lips. This naturally leads him to speak of the sin and folly of vain swearing in common discourse.

4 *A haughty mind.*] Margin, A giant like.

lust of the flesh take hold of me, and give not over me thy servant into an impudent mind.

7 Hear, O ye children, the discipline of the mouth: he that keepeth it, shall never be taken in his lips.

8 The sinner shall be left in his foolishness: both the evil speaker and the proud shall fall thereby.

9 Accustom not thy month to swearing, neither use thyself to the naming of the holy One.

10 For as a servant that is continually beaten, shall not be without a blue mark, so he that sweareth and nameth God continually, shall not be faultless.

11 A man that useth much swearing shall be filled with iniquity, and the plague shall never depart from his house: if he shall offend, his sin shall be upon him: and if he acknowledge not his sin, he maketh a double offence; and if he swear in vain, he shall not be innocent, but his house shall be full of calamities.

12 There is a word that is clothed about with death: God grant that it be not found in the heritage of Jacob, for all such things shall be far from the godly, and they shall not wallow in their sins.

13 Use not thy mouth to intemperate swearing, for therein is the word of sin.

14 Remember thy father and thy mother, when thou sittest among great men. Be not forgetful before them, and so thou by

thy custom become a fool, and wish that thou hadst not been born, and curse the day of thy nativity.

15 The man that is accustomed to opprobrious words, will never be reformed all the days of his life.

16 Two sorts of men multiply sin, and the third will bring wrath: a hot mind is as a burning fire, it will never be quenched till it be consumed: a fornicator in the body of his flesh, will never cease till he hath kindled a fire.

17 All bread is sweet to a whoremonger, he will not leave off till he die.

18 A man that breaketh wedlock, saying thus in his heart, Who seeth me? I am compassed about with darkness, the walls cover me, and no body seeth me; what need I to fear? the most High will not remember my sins:

19 Such a man only feareth the eyes of men, and knoweth not that the eyes of the Lord are ten thousand times brighter than the sun, beholding all the ways of men, and considering the most secret parts.

20 He knew all things ere ever they were created; so also after they were perfected, he looked upon them all.

21 This man shall be punished in the streets of the city, and where he suspecteth not he shall be taken.

22 Thus shall it go also with the wife that leaveth her husband, and bringeth in an heir by another.

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23 For

8 *The sinner shall be left in his foolishness, &c.*] This should be rendered, *taken in his foolishness*; namely, of speaking without consideration.

11 *If he shall offend, his sin shall be upon him, &c.*] This is direct tautology. But the Greek, which our translators render indeterminately *offend*, is, if he swear any rash oath, and sin inadvertently, not rightly understanding the thing about which he swears, he shall then be guilty.

*He shall not be innocent.*] Or, justified.

12 *There is a word that is clothed about with death, &c.*] This crime, which the writer does not mention, as being too odious, is blasphemy, which he has sufficiently distin-

guished; for it was punished with death among the Jews.

13 *Use not thy mouth to intemperate swearing, &c.*] Some copies read, *use not thy mouth to obscene licence, or unbecoming speech*; meaning either obscenity, or calumny, and opprobrious words.

14 *Remember thy father, and thy mother, &c.*] According to Grotius, the sense is, though thou be intimate with the great, and be thyself in a high station, do not forget thy parents, nor speak of them as if thou wert ashamed of them.

22 *By another.*] Margin, A stranger.



23 For first she hath disobeyed the law of the most High; and secondly, she hath trespassed against her own husband; and thirdly, she hath played the whore in adultery, and brought children by another man.

24 She shall be brought out into the congregation, and inquisition shall be made of her children.

25 Her children shall not take root, and her branches shall bring forth no fruit,

26 She shall leave her memory to be cursed, and her reproach shall not be blotted out.

27 And they that remain shall know that there is nothing better than the fear of the Lord, and that there is nothing sweeter than to take heed unto the commandments of the Lord.

28 It is great glory to follow the Lord, and to be received of him, is long life.

#### CHAP. XXIV.

2 *Wisdom doth praise herself, sheweth her beginning, 4 her dwelling, 13 her glory, 17 her fruit, 26 her increase and perfection.*

**W**ISDOM shall praise herself, and shall glory in the midst of her people.

2 In the congregation of the most High shall she open her mouth and triumph before his power.

3 I came out of the mouth of the most High, and covered the earth as a cloud.

4 I dwelt in high places, and my throne is in a cloudy pillar.

5 I alone compassed the circuit of heaven, and walked in the bottom of the deep.

6 In the waves of the sea, and in all the earth, and in every people, and nation, I got a possession.

7 With all these I sought rest: and in whose inheritance shall I abide?

8 So the Creator of all things gave me a commandment, and he that made me, caused my tabernacle to rest, and said, Let thy dwelling be in Jacob, and thine inheritance in Israel.

9 He created me from the beginning before the world, and I shall never fail.

10 In the holy tabernacle I served before him: and so was I established in Sion.

11 Likewise in the beloved city he gave me rest, and in Jerusalem was my power.

12 And I took root in an honourable people, even in the portion of the Lord's inheritance.

13 I was exalted like a cedar in Libanus, and as a cypress-tree upon the mountains of Hermon.

14 I was exalted like a palm-tree in Engaddi, and as a rose-plant in Jericho; as a fair olive-tree in a pleasant field, and grew up as a plane-tree by the water.

15 I gave a sweet smell like cinnamon and aspalathus, and I yielded a pleasant odour like the best myrrh, as galbanum, and onyx, and sweet storax, and as the fume of frankincense in the tabernacle.

16 As the turpentine-tree I stretched out my branches, and my branches are the branches of honour and grace.

17 As the vine brought I forth pleasant favour, and my flowers are the fruit of honour and riches.

18 I am the mother of fair love, and fear and

24 *An inquisition.*] Or, visitation.

#### NOTES on Chap. XXIV.

Ver. 1 *Wisdom shall praise herself, &c.*] Wisdom is the most noble principle which is implanted in the intelligent

parts of God's works.

3 *As a cloud.*] Or, mist.

11 *In the beloved city.*] Or, holy city.

14 *In Engaddi.*] Margin, Cades.

*By the water.*] Margin, In the water.

and knowledge and holy hope : I therefore being eternal, am given to all my children, which are named of him.

19 Come unto me all ye that be desirous of me, and fill yourselves with my fruits.

20 For my memorial is sweeter than honey, and mine inheritance than the honeycomb.

21 They that eat me shall yet be hungry, and they that drink me shall yet be thirsty.

22 He that obeyeth me shall never be confounded, and they that work by me shall not do amiss.

23 All these things are the book of the covenant of the most high God, even the law which Moses commanded for an heritage unto the congregations of Jacob.

24 Faint not to be strong in the Lord ; that he may confirm you, cleave unto him : for the Lord Almighty is God alone, and besides him there is no other Saviour.

25 He filleth all things with his wisdom, as Phison, and as Tigris in the time of the new fruits.

26 He maketh the understanding to abound like Euphrates, and as Jordan in the time of the harvest.

27 He maketh the doctrine of knowledge appear as the light, and as Geon in the time of vintage.

28 The first man knew her not perfectly : no more shall the last find her out.

29 For her thoughts are more than the sea, and her counsels profounder than the great deep.

30 I also came out as a brook from a river, and as a conduit into a garden.

31 I said, I will water my best garden, and will water abundantly my garden-bed : and lo my brook became a river, and my river became a sea.

32 I will yet make doctrine to shine as the morning, and will send forth her light afar off.

33 I will yet pour out doctrine as prophecy, and leave it to all ages for ever.

34 Behold that I have not laboured for myself only, but for all them that seek wisdom.

### C H A P. XXV.

1 *What things are beautiful, and what hateful.* 6 *What is the crown of age.* 7 *What things make men happy.* 13 *Nothing worse than a wicked woman.*

**I**N three things I was beautified, and stood up beautiful both before God and men : the unity of brethren, the love of neighbours, a man and a wife that agree together.

2 Three sorts of men my soul hateth, and I am greatly offended at their life : a poor man that is proud, a rich man that is a liar, and an old adulterer that doteth.

3 If thou hast gathered nothing in thy youth, how canst thou find any thing in thine age ?

4 O how comely a thing is judgment for gray hairs, and for ancient men to know counsel !

5 O how comely is the wisdom of old men, and understanding and counsel to men of honour !

6 Much experience is the crown of old men, and the fear of God is their glory.

7 There be nine things which I have judged

18 *Which are named.*] Or, chosen.

30 *As a brook.*] Margin, A drain or ditch.

31 *I will water my best garden, &c.*] By the best garden is meant, the human mind.

### NOTES on Chap. XXV.

Ver. 1 *In three things I was beautified, &c.*] Margin,

reads *glorified*. The author's sentiment in the beginning of this chapter on things beautiful and hateful, &c. are the result of a sound judgment, formed on a thorough knowledge of mankind.

7 *He that liveth to see the fall of his enemy.*] This is according to the narrowness of the Jewish notions.



judged in mine heart to be happy, and the tenth I will utter with my tongue: A man that hath joy of his children, and he that liveth to see the fall of his enemy.

8 Well is him that dwelleth with a wife of understanding, and that hath not slipped with his tongue, and that hath not served a man more unworthy than himself.

9 Well is him that hath found prudence, and he that speaketh in the ears of them that will hear.

10 O how great is he that findeth wisdom! yet is there none above him that feareth the Lord.

11 But the love of the Lord passeth all things for illumination: he that holdeth it, whereto shall he be likened?

12 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of his love: and faith is the beginning of cleaving unto him.

13 [Give me] any plague, but the plague of the heart: and any wickedness, but the wickedness of a woman:

14 And any affliction, but the affliction from them that hate me: and any revenge, but the revenge of enemies.

15 There is no head above the head of a serpent, and there is no wrath above the wrath of an enemy.

16 I had rather dwell with a lion and a dragon, than to keep house with a wicked woman.

17 The wickedness of a woman changeth her face, and darkeneth her countenance like sackcloth.

18 Her husband shall sit among his neighbours: and when he heareth it, shall sigh bitterly.

19 All wickedness is but little to the wickedness of a woman: let the portion of a sinner fall upon her.

20 As the climbing of a sandy way is to the feet of the aged, so is a wife full of words to a quiet man.

21 Stumble not at the beauty of a woman, and desire her not for pleasure.

22 A woman if she maintain her husband, is full of anger, impudence, and much reproach.

23 A wicked woman abateth the courage, maketh an heavy countenance, and a wounded heart: a woman that will not comfort her husband in distress, maketh weak hands and feeble knees.

24 Of the woman came the beginning of sin, and through her we all die.

25 Give the water no passage: neither a wicked woman liberty to gad abroad.

26 If she go not as thou wouldest have her, cut her off from thy flesh, and give her a bill of divorce, and let her go.

#### C H A P. XXVI.

1 *A good wife,* 4 *and a good conscience do glad men.* 6 *A wicked wife is a fearful thing.* 13 *Of good and bad wives.* 28 *Of three things that are grievous.* 29 *Merchants and bucklers are not without sin.*

**B**lessed is the man that hath a virtuous wife, for the number of his days shall be double.

2 A virtuous woman rejoiceth her husband, and he shall fulfil the years of his life in peace.

3 A good wife is a good portion, which shall be given in the portion of them that fear the Lord.

#### 4 Whether

9. *That hath found prudence.*] Margin reads, A friend.

11 *Whereto.*] Or, to whom.

13 *Any plague, but the plague of the heart, &c.*] i. e. Sorrow and grief of mind.

17 *Darkeneth her countenance like sackcloth.*] Some copies read, Cloudeth her countenance like a bear.

20 *Full of words.*] Or, scolding.

26 *If she go not as thou wouldest have her, &c.*] What is said here of women, is to be understood of the bad among them; for a virtuous and deserving woman is spoken of in the next chapter, in terms of the highest respect. The writer's intention seems to have been, to shew what prudence is necessary in the choice of a wife.

4 Whether a man be rich or poor, if he have a good heart toward the Lord, he shall at all times rejoice with a cheerful countenance.

5 There be three things that mine heart feareth; and for the fourth I was sore afraid: the slander of a city, the gathering together of an unruly multitude, and a false accusation: all these are worse than death.

6 But a grief of heart and sorrow, is a woman that is jealous over another woman, and a scourge of the tongue which communicateth with all.

7 An evil wife is a yoke shaken to and fro: he that hath hold of her, is as though he held a scorpion.

8 A drunken woman and a gadder abroad, causeth great anger, and she will not cover her own shame.

9 The whoredom of a woman may be known in her haughty looks, and eye-lids.

10 If thy daughter be shameless, keep her in straightly, lest she abuse herself through over-much liberty.

11 Watch over an impudent eye: and marvel not if she trespass against thee.

12 She will open her mouth as a thirsty traveller, when he hath found a fountain: and drink of every water near her: by every hedge will she sit down, and open her quiver against every arrow.

13 The grace of a wife delighteth her husband, and her discretion will fat his bones.

14 A silent and loving woman is a gift of the Lord, and there is nothing so much worth as a mind well instructed.

15 A shamefaced and faithful woman is a double grace, and her continent mind cannot be valued.

16 As the sun when it riseth in the high heaven: so is the beauty of a good wife in the ordering of her house.

17 As the clear light is upon the holy candlestick: so is the beauty of the face in ripe age.

18 As the golden pillars are upon the sockets of silver: so are the fair feet with a constant heart.

19 My son, keep the flower of thine age sound: and give not thy strength to strangers.

20 When thou hast gotten a fruitful possession through all the field, sow it with thine own seed, trusting in the goodness of thy stock.

21 So thy race which thou leavest shall be magnified, having the confidence of their good descent.

22 An harlot shall be accounted as spittle: but a married woman is a tower against death to her husband.

23 A wicked woman is given as a portion to a wicked man: but a godly woman is given to him that feareth the Lord.

24 A dishonest woman contemneth shame: but an honest woman will reverence her husband.

25 A shameless woman shall be counted  
2 Y as

### NOTES on Chap. XXVI.

Ver. 5 *The slander of a city, &c.*] Margin reads, An evil report.

7 *A yoke.*] Margin, A yoke of oxen.

10 *If thy daughter be shameless.*] Some copies read thus, Keep an early and constant guard over a daughter, lest too much liberty and indulgence prove her ruin.

15 *Her continent mind cannot be valued.*] A woman keeping her proper bounds in all things, who has not only conjugal chastity, but temperance in all respects, or a mo-

deration of the passions, and a strict virtue in the whole conduct of life, is inestimable.

16 *In the high heaven.*] Greek, In the highest places of the Lord.

*In the ordering, &c.*] Or, ornament.

17 *In ripe age.*] Margin, In constant age.

18 *Fair feet.*] Or, comely.

*With a constant heart.*] Or, breast.

22 *An harlot shall be accounted as spittle, &c.*] Or, according to the margin, As a swine.



as a dog : but she that is shamefaced will fear the Lord.

26 A woman that honoureth her husband, shall be judged wife of all : but she that dishonoureth him in her pride, shall be counted ungodly of all.

27 A loud-crying woman and a scold shall be fought out to drive away the enemies.

28 There be two things that grieve my heart ; and the third maketh me angry : a man of war that suffereth poverty, and men of understanding that are not set by, and one that returneth from righteousness to sin, the Lord prepareth such an one for the sword.

29 A merchant shall hardly keep himself from doing wrong : and an huckster shall not be freed from sin.

#### CHAP. XXVII.

*Of sins in selling and buying.* 7 *Our speech will tell what is in us.* 16 *A friend is lost by discovering his secrets.* 25 *He that diggeth a pit, shall fall into it.*

**M**ANY have sinned for a small matter : and he that seeketh for abundance will turn his eyes away.

2 As a nail sticketh fast between the joinings of the stones : so doth sin stick close between buying and selling.

3 Unless a man hold himself diligently in the fear of the Lord, his house shall soon be overthrown.

4 As when one fifteth with a five, the

refuse remaineth : so the filth of man in his talk.

5 The furnace proveth the potters vessels : so the trial of man is in his reasoning.

6 The fruit declareth if the tree have been dressed : so is the utterance of a conceit in the heart of man.

7 Praise no man before thou hearest him speak ; for this is the trial of men.

8 If thou followest righteousness, thou shalt obtain her, and put her on as a glorious long robe.

9 The birds will resort unto their like : so will truth return unto them that practise in her.

10 As the lion lieth in wait for the prey : so sin for them that work iniquity.

11 The discourse of a godly man is always with wisdom : but a fool changeth as the moon.

12 If thou be among the indiscreet, observe the time : but be continually among men of understanding.

13 The discourse of fools is irksome, and their sport is in the wantonness of sin.

14 The talk of him that sweareth much, maketh the hair stand upright : and their brawls make one stop his ears.

15 The strife of the proud is bloodshedding, and their revilings are grievous to the ear.

16 Whoso discovereth secrets loseth his credit ; and shall never find a friend to his mind.

17 Love thy friend, and be faithful unto him :

26 *She that dishonoureth him in her pride, &c.]* The strict rendering of the Greek here is, She that despiseth, or dishonoureth her husband, shall by all be accounted wicked for her pride.

29 *A merchant shall hardly keep himself from doing wrong.]* Considering the multiplicity of affairs in which a merchant is employed, and the diversity of persons with whom he is concerned, he finds it very difficult to hold the balance of justice exactly poised, so as no man shall have reason to complain.

#### NOTES on Chap. XXVII.

Ver. 1 *Many have sinned for a small matter, &c.]* The margin reads, For a thing indifferent. According to some the true reading is, For the sake of gain or money, which seems most agreeable to the context.

4 *In his talk.]* Or, thought.

12 *If thou be among the indiscreet, observe the time, &c.]* Meaning, that one should never enter into the company of such, unless absolute necessity or urgent business obliges.

him : but if thou bewrayest his secrets, follow no more after him.

18 For as a man hath destroyed his enemy : so hast thou lost the love of thy neighbour.

19 As one that letteth a bird go out of his hand, so hast thou let thy neighbour go, and shalt not get him again.

20 Follow after him no more, for he is too far off, he is as a roe escaped out of the snare.

21 As for a wound, it may be bound up; and after reviling there may be reconciliation : but he that bewrayeth secrets, is without hope.

22 He that winketh with the eyes, worketh evil : and he that knoweth him will depart from him.

23 When thou art present, he will speak sweetly, and will admire thy words : but at the last he will writhe his mouth, and slander thy sayings.

24 I have hated many things, but nothing like him, for the Lord will hate him.

25 Whoso casteth a stone on high, casteth it on his own head, and a deceitful stroke shall make wounds.

26 Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein : and he that setteth a trap, shall be taken therein.

27 He that worketh mischief, it shall fall upon him, and he shall not know whence it cometh.

28 Mockery and reproach are from the

proud : but vengeance as a lion shall lie in wait for them.

29 They that rejoice at the fall of the righteous, shall be taken in the snare, and anguish shall consume them before they die.

30 Malice and wrath, even these are abominations, and the sinful man shall have them both.

## CHAP. XXVIII.

1 *Against revenge, 8 quarrelling, 10 anger, 15 and backbiting.*

**H**E that revengeth shall find vengeance from the Lord, and he will surely keep his sins [in remembrance.]

2 Forgive thy neighbour the hurt that he hath done unto thee, so shall thy sins also be forgiven when thou prayest.

3 One man beareth hatred against another, and doth he seek pardon from the Lord ?

4 He sheweth no mercy to a man, which is like himself : and doth he ask forgiveness of his own sins ?

5 If he that is but flesh nourish hatred, who will intreat for pardon of his sins ?

6 Remember thy end, and let enmity cease : [remember] corruption and death, and abide in the commandments.

7 Remember the commandments, and bear no malice to thy neighbour : [remember] the covenant of the Highest, and wink at ignorance.

8 Abstain from strife, and thou shalt diminish

23 *He will writhe his mouth.*] Margin, Alter his speech.

25 *A deceitful stroke shall make wounds.*] The meaning seems to be, that he who intends to wound an enemy by a stroke levelled in the dark, may chance to wound his friend instead of the other.

### NOTES ON CHAP. XXVIII.

Ver. 1 *He that revengeth shall find vengeance, &c.*] Revenge is a crime which deserves the severest reprehensions, both from God and man. From God, as it invades his prerogative of rendering to every man according to his deeds; and from man, as it is a breach of that golden rule

of doing to all men as we would be done to.

6 (*Remember*) *corruption and death, &c.*] This, says an ingenious author, is the shortest compendium of holy living that ever was given. It is as if the writer had said, many are the precepts and admonitions left us by wise and good men for the moral conduct of good life; but would you have a short and infallible directory of living well, do but remember corruption and death, and ye cannot be deficient in your duty.

7 *Wink at ignorance.*] At offences committed against thee; for so the Greek word translated *ignorance* is used in other places of this author.



minish thy sins: for a furious man will kindle strife.

9 A sinful man disquieteth friends, and maketh debate among them that be at peace.

10 As the matter of the fire is, so it burneth: and as a man's strength is, so is his wrath; and according to his riches his anger riseth: and the stronger they are which contend, the more they will be inflamed.

11 An hasty contention kindleth a fire: and an hasty fighting sheddeth blood.

12 If thou blow the spark, it shall burn; if thou spit upon it, it shall be quenched: and both these come out of thy mouth.

13 Curse the whisperer, and double-tongued: for such have destroyed many that were at peace.

14 A backbiting tongue hath disquieted many, and driven them from nation to nation; strong cities hath it pulled down, and overthrown the houses of great men.

15 A backbiting tongue hath cast out virtuous women, and deprived them of their labours.

16 Whoso hearkeneth unto it, shall never find rest, and never dwell quietly.

17 The stroke of the whip maketh marks in the flesh: but the stroke of the tongue breaketh the bones.

18 Many have fallen by the edge of the sword: but not so many as have fallen by the tongue.

19 Well is he that is defended from it, and hath not passed through the venom thereof; and who hath not drawn the yoke thereof, nor hath been bound in her bands.

20 For the yoke thereof is a yoke of iron, and the bands thereof are bands of brass.

21 The death thereof is an evil death,

the grave were better than it.

22 It shall not have rule over them that fear God, neither shall they be burnt with the flame thereof.

23 Such as forsake the Lord, shall fall into it, and it shall burn in them, and not be quenched; it shall be sent upon them as a lion, and devour them as a leopard.

24 Look that thou hedge thy possession about with thorns, and bind up thy silver and gold:

25 And weigh thy words in a balance, and make a door and bar for thy mouth.

26 Beware thou slide not by it, lest thou fall before him that lieth in wait.

#### C H A P. XXIX.

1 *We must shew mercy, and lend: 4 but the borrower must not defraud the lender.*

9 *Give alms. 14 A good man will not undo his surety. 18 To be surety, and undertake for others, is dangerous. 22 It is better to live at home, than to sojourn.*

**H**E that is merciful, will lend unto his neighbour, and he that strengtheneth his hand, keepeth the commandments.

2 Lend to thy neighbour in time of his need, and pay thou thy neighbour again in due season.

3 Keep thy word, and deal faithfully with him, and thou shalt always find the thing that is necessary for thee.

4 Many, when a thing was lent them, reckoned it to be found, and put them to trouble that helped them.

5 Till he hath received, he will kiss a man's hand; and for his neighbours money he will speak submissively: but when he should repay, he will prolong the time, and return words of grief, and complain of the time.

6 If

13 *Curse the whisperer, &c.]* By cursing is meant, abhorring him as a detestable person, and deserving of execration.

15 *A back-biting tongue.]* Margin, A third tongue.

#### NOTES on Chap. XXIX.

Ver. 1. *He that is merciful will lend, &c.]* It is an undoubted truth that no man was born for himself; and that

6 If he prevail, he shall hardly receive the half, and he will count as if he had found it: if not, he hath deprived him of his money, and he hath gotten him an enemy without cause: he payeth him with curfings and railings; and for honour, he will pay him disgrace.

7 Many therefore have refused to lend for other men's ill dealing, fearing to be defrauded.

8 Yet have thou patience with a man in poor estate, and delay not to shew him mercy.

9 Help the poor for the commandments sake, and turn him not away because of his poverty.

10 Lose thy money for thy brother and thy friend, and let it not rust under a stone to be lost.

11 Lay up thy treasure according to the commandments of the most High, and it shall bring thee more profit than gold.

12 Shut up alms in thy store-houses: and it shall deliver thee from all affliction.

13 It shall fight for thee against thine enemies, better than a mighty shield and strong spear.

14 An honest man is surety for his neighbour: but he that is impudent will forsake him.

15 Forget not the friendship of thy surety, for he hath given his life for thee.

16 A sinner will overthrow the good estate of his surety:

17 And he that is of an unthankful mind, will leave him in [danger] that delivered him.

18 Suretiship hath undone many of good estate, and shaken them as a wave of the sea: mighty men hath it driven from their houses, so that they wandered among strange nations.

19 A wicked man transgressing the commandments of the Lord, shall fall into suretiship: and he that undertaketh and followeth other men's business for gain, shall fall into suits.

20 Help thy neighbour according to thy power, and beware that thou thyself fall not into the same.

21 The chief thing for life is water and bread, and clothing, and an house to cover shame.

22 Better is the life of a poor man in a mean cottage, than delicate fare in another man's house.

23 Be it little or much, hold thee contented, that thou hear not the reproach of thy house.

24 For it is a miserable life to go from house to house: for where thou art a stranger, thou dardest not open thy mouth.

25 Thou shalt entertain, and feast, and have no thanks: moreover, thou shalt hear bitter words:

26 Come, thou stranger, and furnish a table, and feed me of that thou hast ready;

27 Give place, thou stranger, to an honourable man, my brother cometh to be lodged, and I have need of mine house.

28 These things are grievous to a man of understanding: the upbraiding of house-room, and reproaching of the lender.

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if he has a larger share of the blessings of this life than his neighbour, he ought to be more benevolent and communicative to those who have occasion for his assistance; but above all things, we are required to be just in our dealings, and punctual in the performance of all our contracts and engagements.

6 *If he prevail, he will hardly receive the half, &c.*] This probably should be understood of the creditor, that if he

be able to get any thing, he will scarcely receive half; and that which he recovers, he must look upon as so much gain: or it may fall still worse with the creditor; for perhaps he will not be able to get the least part of the money he lent; and not only so, but the debtor turns his enemy without any reason, and treats him with abusive language.

14 *Will forsake him.*] Margin, Fail him.



## CHAP. XXX.

1 *It is good to correct our children, 7 and not to cocker them. 14 Health is better than wealth. 22 Health and life are shortened by grief.*

**H**E that loveth his son, causeth him oft to feel the rod; that he may have joy of him in the end.

2 He that chastiseth his son, shall have joy in him, and shall rejoice of him among his acquaintance.

3 He that teacheth his son, grieveth the enemy: and before his friends he shall rejoice of him.

4 Though his father die, yet he is as though he were not dead: for he hath left one behind him that is like himself.

5 While he lived he saw and rejoiced in him: and when he died, he was not sorrowful.

6 He left behind him an avenger against his enemies, and one that shall requite kindness to his friends.

7 He that maketh too much of his son, shall bind up his wounds, and his bowels will be troubled at every cry.

8 An horse not broken becometh headstrong: and a child left to himself will be wilful.

9 Cocker thy child, and he shall make thee afraid: play with him, and he will bring thee to heaviness.

10 Laugh not with him, lest thou have sorrow with him, and lest thou gnash thy teeth in the end.

11 Give him no liberty in his youth, and

wink not at his follies.

12 Bow down his neck while he is young, and beat him on the sides while he is a child, lest he wax stubborn, and be disobedient unto thee, and so bring sorrow to thine heart.

13 Chastise thy son, and hold him to labour, lest his leud behaviour be an offence unto thee.

14 Better is the poor, being sound and strong of constitution, than a rich man that is afflicted in his body.

15 Health and good state of body are above all gold, and a strong body above infinite wealth.

16 There is no riches above a sound body, and no joy above the joy of the heart.

17 Death is better than a bitter life, or continual sickness.

18 Delicates poured upon a mouth shut up, are as messes of meat set upon a grave.

19 What good doth the offering unto an idol? for neither can it eat nor smell: so is he that is persecuted of the Lord.

20 He seeth with his eyes, and groaneth as an eunuch that embraceth a virgin, and sigheth.

21 Give not over thy mind to heaviness, and afflict not thyself in thine own counsel.

22 The gladness of the heart is the life of man, and the joyfulness of a man longeth his days.

23 Love thine own soul, and comfort thy heart, remove sorrow far from thee: for sorrow hath killed many, and there is no profit therein.

24 Envy and wrath shorten the life, and carefulness

## NOTES on Chap. XXX.

Ver. 2. *Shall have joy in him.*] Or, good by him. *Among his acquaintance.*] Or, kinsfolk.

6 *He left behind him an avenger against, &c.*] In the Greek it is, an avenger of his fame, i. e. One who will vindicate his memory from all unjust aspersions, and who, by his own actions and behaviour, will show what a worthy man his father was, and who will do good also to those

who deserved well of him.

9 *Afraid.*] The margin reads, astonished.

13 *Hold him to labour, &c.*] This should have been translated, Labour in him, i. e. Take pains with him in order to instruct him.

19 *So is he that is persecuted of the Lord.*] Rather, He that is afflicted of the Lord; namely, with a grievous sickness or disease.

22 *The joyfulness.*] Or, exultation.

carefulness bringeth age before the time.

25 A cheerful and good heart will have a care of his meat and diet.

### C H A P. XXXI.

I *Of the desire of riches.* 12 *Of moderation and excess in eating, or drinking wine.*

**W**atching for riches consumeth the flesh, and the care thereof driveth away sleep.

2 Watching care will not let a man slumber, as a sore disease breaketh sleep.

3 The rich hath great labour in gathering riches together, and when he resteth he is filled with his delicates.

4 The poor laboureth in his poor estate, and when he leaveth off he is still needy.

5 He that loveth gold shall not be justified, and he that followeth corruption, shall have enough thereof.

6 Gold hath been the ruin of many, and their destruction was present.

7 It is a stumbling-block unto them that sacrifice unto it, and every fool shall be taken therewith.

8 Blessed is the rich that is found without blemish, and hath not gone after gold.

9 Who is he? and we will call him blessed: for wonderful things hath he done among his people.

10 Who hath been tried thereby, and found perfect? then let him glory. Who might offend, and hath not offended? or done evil, and hath not done it?

11 His goods shall be established, and the congregation shall declare his alms.

12 If thou sit at a bountiful table, be not greedy upon it, and say not, There is much meat on it.

13 Remember that a wicked eye is an evil thing: and what is created more wicked, than an eye? therefore it weepeth upon every occasion.

14 Stretch not thine hand withersoever it looketh, and thrust it not with him into the dish.

15 Judge of thy neighbour by thyself: and be discreet in every point.

16 Eat as it becometh a man, those things which are set before thee: and devour not, lest thou be hated.

17 Leave off first for manners sake; and be not unsatiable, lest thou offend.

18 When thou fittest among many, reach not thine hand out first of all.

19 A very little is sufficient for a man well nurtured, and he fetcheth not his wind short upon his bed.

20 Sound sleep cometh of moderate eating, he riseth early, and his wits are with him: but the pain of watching and choler, and pangs of the belly, are with an unsatiable man.

21 And if thou hast been forced to eat, arise, go forth, vomit, and thou shalt have rest.

22 My son, hear me, and despise me not, and at the last thou shalt find as I told thee: in all thy works be quick, so shall there no sickness come unto thee.

23 Whoso is liberal of his meat, men shall

25 *A cheerful, &c.]* Margin, A noble and good, &c.

### NOTES on Chap. XXXI.

Ver. 1. *Watching for riches consumeth the flesh, &c.]* An inordinate pursuit of riches is attended with a continual and restless disquiet; it impairs a man's health, wastes his flesh, and suffers him not to enjoy the common comforts of life. It often pushes him upon unjustifiable actions, the consequences of which may prove his destruction. But happy is he who gets his riches with a conscience unblemished, and knows how to make a right use of his wealth.

5 *He that followeth corruption, shall have enough, &c.]* The meaning is, that he who is too intent upon getting riches, shall be corrupted and betrayed by them; or he that seeketh after money with greediness, shall transgress often.

12 *Be not greedy upon it.]* Greek, Open not thy throat upon it.

13 *Therefore it weepeth upon every occasion.]* Margin, Before every thing that is presented.

19 *He fetcheth not his wind short upon his bed.]* Margin, Lieth not puffing and blowing.



shall speak well of him, and the report of his good house-keeping will be believed.

24 But against him that is a niggard of his meat, the whole city shall murmur, and the testimonies of his niggardness shall not be doubted of.

25 Shew not thy valiantness in wine, for wine hath destroyed many.

26 The furnace proveth the edge by dipping: so doth wine the hearts of the proud by drunkenness.

27 Wine is as good as life to a man if it be drunk moderately: what life is then to a man that is without wine? for it was made to make men glad.

28 Wine measurably drunk, and in season, bringeth gladness of the heart, and cheerfulness of the mind.

29 But wine drunken with excess, maketh bitterness of the mind, with brawling and quarrelling.

30 Drunkenness increaseth the rage of a fool till he offend: it diminisheth strength, and maketh wounds.

31 Rebuke not thy neighbour at the wine, and despise him not in his mirth: give him no despiteful words, and press not upon him, with urging him [to drink.]

CHAP. XXXII.

1 Of his duty that is chief or master in a feast. 14 Of the fear of God. 18 Of counsel. 20 Of a ragged, and a smooth way. 23 Trust not to any but to thyself, and to God.

**I**F thou be made the master [of a feast] lift not thyself up, but be among them as one of the rest, take diligent care for them, and so sit down.

2 And when thou hast done all thy office, take thy place, that thou mayest be merry with them, and receive a crown for thy well-ordering of the feast.

3 Speak thou that art the elder, for it becometh thee, but with sound judgment, and hinder not musick.

4 Pour not out words where there is a musician, and shew not forth wisdom out of time.

5 A consort of musick in a banquet of wine, is as a signet of carbuncle set in gold.

6 As a signet of an emerald set in a work of gold, so is the melody of musick with pleasant wine.

7 Speak, young man, if there be need of thee: and yet scarcely when thou art twice asked.

9 Let thy speech be short, comprehending much in few words; be as one that knoweth, and yet holdeth his tongue.

9 If thou be among great men, make not thyself equal with them; and when ancient men are in place, use not many words.

10 Before the thunder goeth lightning, and before a shamefaced man shall go favour.

11 Rise up betimes, and be not the last, but get thee home without delay.

12 There take thy pastime, and do what thou wilt: but sin not by proud speech.

13 And for these things bless him that made thee, and hath replenished thee with his good things.

14 Whoso feareth the Lord will receive his discipline, and they that seek him early shall find favour.

15 He that seeketh the law, shall be filled

31 Press not upon him by urging him [to drink]. There is another reading, which some prefer, Press not upon him in meeting him: i. e. Do not, when you meet him again, reproach him about any thing he said or did in his cups.

#### NOTES on Chap. XXXII.

Ver. 13 For these things bless him that made thee, &c.]

Or rather, and above these things, &c. This mind above all, to give thanks to the Great Creator, who hath made so many good things for thy enjoyment.

15 The hypocrite will be offended thereat.] He who would be thought studious of the law when he is not so, shall be caught in some crime which he was in hopes would have lain hid, and suffer the penalty of the law for it.

led therewith: but the hypocrite will be offended thereat.

16 They that fear the Lord shall find judgment, and shall kindle justice as a light.

17 A sinful man will not be reprov'd, but findeth an excuse according to his will.

18 A man of counsel will be confederate, but a strange and proud man is not daunted with fear, even when of himself he hath done without counsel.

19 Do nothing without advice, and when thou hast once done, repent not.

20 Go not in a way wherein thou mayest fall, and stumble not among the stones.

21 Be not confident in a plain way.

22 And beware of thine own children.

23 In every good work trust thy own soul, for this is the keeping of the commandments.

24 He that believeth in the Lord, taketh heed to the commandment, and he that trusteth in him, shall fare never the worse.

#### C H A P. XXXIII.

1 *The safety of him that feareth the Lord.*

2 *The wise and the foolish. 7 Times and seasons are of God. 10 Men are in his hands, as clay in the hands of the potter.*

18 *Chiefly regard thyself. 24 Of servants.*

**T**HERE shall no evil happen unto him that feareth the Lord, but in temptation even again he will deliver him.

2 A wise man hateth not the law; but he that is an hypocrite therein, is as a ship in a storm.

3 A man of understanding trusteth in the law, and the law is faithful unto him, as an oracle.

4 Prepare what to say, and so thou shalt be heard: and bind up instruction, and then make answer.

5 The heart of the foolish is like a cart-wheel: and his thoughts are like a rolling axle-tree.

6 A stallion horse is as a mocking friend, he neigheth under every one that sitteth upon him.

7 Why doth one day excel another, when as all the light of every day in the year is of the sun.

8 By the knowledge of the Lord they were distinguished, and he altered seasons and feasts.

9 Some of them hath he made high days, and hallowed them, and some of them hath he made ordinary days.

10 And all men are from the ground, and Adam was created of earth.

11 In much knowledge the Lord hath divided them, and made their ways divers.

12 Some of them hath he blessed, and exalted, and some of them hath he sanctified, and set near himself: but some of them hath he cursed and brought low, and turned out of their places.

13 As the clay is in the potter's hand, to fashion it at his pleasure: so man is in the hand of him that made him, to render to them as liketh him best.

3 A

14 Good

23 *In every good work trust thy own soul, &c.]* According to the context it ought to be rendered, in every action trust in God with thy whole heart; for this is the keeping of the commandments.

24 *Shall fare never the worse.]* Margin, Shall not be hurt.

#### NOTES ON Chap. XXXIII.

Ver. 1 *There shall no evil happen unto him that feareth the Lord, &c.]* A man who fears the Lord is sufficiently secured against all possible evils; and he who makes the law

the rule of his actions, needs no surer guide or better instruction.

3 *The law is faithful unto him as an oracle.]* Or rather, as the oracle, and as the asking of Urim; meaning that a man of understanding trusteth in the promises made in the law, which are as much to be depended upon as the answers received by Urim and Thummim.

5 *The heart, &c.]* Greek, Bowels.

9 *Some of them hath he made ordinary days.]* Margin, Ordained for the number of days.

12 *And turned out of their places.]* Or, standings.



14 Good is set against evil, and life against death: so is the godly against the sinner, and the sinner against the godly.

15 So look upon all the works of the most High, and there are two and two, one against another.

16 I awaked up last of all, as one that gathereth after the grape-gatherers; by the blessing of the Lord I profited, and filled my wine-press like a gatherer of grapes.

17 Consider that I laboured not for myself only, but for all them that seek learning.

18 Hear me, O ye great men of the people, and hearken with your ears, ye rulers of the congregation.

19 Give not thy son and wife, thy brother and friend, power over thee while thou livest, and give not thy goods to another: lest it repent thee, and thou intreat for the same again.

20 As long as thou livest and hast breath in thee, give not thyself over to any.

21 For better it is that thy children should seek to thee, than that thou shouldest stand to their courtesy.

22 In all thy works keep to thyself the pre-eminence, leave not a stain in thine honour.

23 At the time when thou shalt end thy days, and finish thy life, distribute thine inheritance.

24 Fodder, a wand, and burdens, are for the ass: and bread, correction, and work, for a servant.

25 If thou set thy servant to labour, thou shalt find rest: but if thou let him go idle, he shall seek liberty.

26 A yoke and a collar do bow the neck: so are tortures and torments for an evil servant.

27 Send him to labour that he be not idle: for idleness teacheth much evil.

28 Set him to work as is fit for him: if he be not obedient, put on more heavy fetters.

29 But be not excessive toward any, and without discretion do nothing.

30 If thou have a servant, let him be unto thee as thyself, because thou hast bought him with a price.

31 If thou have a servant, intreat him as a brother: for thou hast need of him as of thine own soul: if thou intreat him evil, and he run from thee: which way wilt thou go to seek him?

#### C H A P. XXXIV.

1 *Of dreams.* 13 *The praise and blessing of them that fear the Lord.* 18 *The offering of the ancient, and prayer of the poor innocent.*

**T**HE hopes of a man void of understanding, are vain and false: and dreams lift up fools.

2 Whoso regardeth dreams is like him that catcheth at a shadow, and followeth after the wind.

3 The vision of dreams is the resemblance of one thing to another, even as the likeness of a face to a face.

4 Of an unclean thing, what can be cleansed? and from that thing which is false, what truth can come?

5 Divinations and soothsayings, and dreams are vain, and the heart fancieth as a woman's heart in travail.

6 If

16 *That gathereth.*] Or, gleaneth.

20 *Give not thyself, &c.*] Or, sell not thyself, &c.

21 *Stand to their courtesy.*] Or, look to their hands.

25 *If thou set thy servant to labour, &c.*] Some versions have it, he will seek to rest, i. e. his thoughts will be chiefly employed in wishing for the hours of rest and sleep.

30 *Thou hast bought him with a price.*] Greek, in blood.

#### NOTES on Chap. XXXIV.

Ver. 1 *Dreams lift up fools.*] As dreams are no more than the sportings of fancy, and vagaries of the imagination when the senses are at rest, he who pretends to prognosticate either good or ill from them, puts his confidence in that which hath nothing to support it.

2 *Whoso regardeth, &c.*] Or, hath his mind upon, &c.

6 If they be not sent from the most High in thy visitation, set not thy heart upon them.

7 For dreams have deceived many, and they have failed that put their trust in them.

8 The law shall be found perfect without lies: and wisdom is perfection to a faithful mouth.

9 A man that hath travailed knoweth many things: and he that hath much experience will declare wisdom.

10 He that hath no experience knoweth little: but he that hath travelled is full of prudence.

11 When I travelled, I saw many things, and I understand more than I can express.

12 I was oft-times in danger of death: yet I was delivered because of these things.

13 The spirit of those that fear the Lord shall live, for their hope is in him that saveth them.

14 Whoso feareth the Lord, shall not fear nor be afraid, for he is his hope.

15 Blessed is the soul of him that feareth the Lord: to whom doth he look? and who is his strength?

16 For the eyes of the Lord are upon them that love him, he is their mighty protection and strong stay, a defence from heat,

and a cover from the sun at noon, a preservation from stumbling, and a help from falling.

17 He raiseth up the soul, and lighteneth the eyes: he giveth health, life, and blessing.

18 He that sacrificeth of a thing wrongfully gotten, his offering is ridiculous; and the gifts of unjust men are not accepted.

19 The most high is not pleased with the offerings of the wicked; neither is he pacified for sin, by the multitude of sacrifices.

20 Whoso bringeth an offering of the goods of the poor, doeth as one that killeth the son before his father's eyes.

21 The bread of the needy is their life: he that defraudeth him thereof is a man of blood.

22 He that taketh away his neighbours living, slayeth him: and he that defraudeth the labourer of his hire, is a blood shedder.

23 When one buildeth, and another pulleth down, what profit have they then but labour?

24 When one prayeth, and another curseth, whose voice will the Lord hear?

25 He that washeth himself after the touching of a dead body, if he touch it again, what availeth his washing?

26 So is it with a man that fasteth for his sins, and goeth again and doeth the same

6 *If they be not sent from the most High, &c.*] Tho' dreams, generally speaking, are idle and false, and the reliance upon them a piece of fond credulity; yet were there some true ones that claimed a regard, as being supernatural intimations of some great event to be fulfilled in its season. Such were all those prophetic ones in scripture, the completion of which attested their veracity and original. The heathens acknowledged, in like manner, two sorts of dreams; the one true, proceeding from God; the other false and deceitful. But what way is there, it may be asked, to distinguish mere natural dreams, the effect of fancy and imagination, from such as are really supernatural and divine? It may properly and safely be observed, that such dreams as were sent by God had generally distinguishing marks of their divine authority and truth: as either the importance of the subject-matter, the time when they happened, or their being sent to persons of particular note and eminence; or their having unusual and preternatural circumstances at-

tending them. It was an opinion generally received in the early ages of the world, that dreams, so confirmed and attested, were sent purposely from heaven: of this we have several instances related in scripture.

12 *Yet I was delivered because of these things.*] It should be rendered, through these things; i. e. by what I had learned thro' experience and travelling.

18 *The gifts.*] Margin, The mockeries.

20 *Whoso bringeth an offering of the goods of the poor, &c.*] God is the protector of the poor, whose bread in the next verse is said to be his life. To take this away, or, by any act of violence, to diminish his little substance, is, in some sort, to take away his life. To offer to God what has been taken by oppression or fraud from the needy, is here, by a most apposite and beautiful metaphor, compared with that shocking instance of cruelty, the spilling the blood of a son, in the sight of a fond and tender father.



same: who will hear his prayer? or what doth his humbling profit him?

# CHAP. XXXV.

1 *Sacrifices pleasing God.* 14 *The prayer of the fatherless, of the widow, and of the humble in spirit.* 20 *Acceptable mercy.*

**H**E that keepeth the law, bringeth offerings enough: he that taketh heed to the commandment, offereth a peace-offering.

2 He that requiteth a good turn, offereth fine flour: and he that giveth alms, sacrificeth praise.

3 To depart from wickedness is a thing pleasing to the Lord, and to forsake unrighteousness, is a propitiation.

4 Thou shalt not appear empty before the Lord.

5 For all these things [are to be done] because of the commandment.

6 The offering of the righteous maketh the altar fat, and the sweet savour thereof is before the most High.

7 The sacrifice of a just man is acceptable, and the memorial thereof shall never be forgotten.

8 Give the Lord his honour with a good eye, and diminish not the first-fruits of thine hands.

9 In all thy gifts shew a cheerful countenance, and dedicate thy tithes with gladness.

10 Give unto the most High according as he hath enriched thee, and as thou hast gotten, give with a cheerful eye.

11 For the Lord recompenseth, and will give thee seven times as much.

12 Do not think to corrupt with gifts, for such he will not receive: and trust not to unrighteous sacrifices, for the Lord is judge, and with him is no respect of persons.

13 He will not accept any person against a poor man, but will hear the prayer of the oppressed.

14 He will not despise the supplication of the fatherless: nor the widow when she poureth out her complaint.

15 Do not the tears run down the widow's cheeks? and is not her cry against him that causeth them to fall?

16 He that serveth the Lord, shall be accepted with favour, and his prayer shall reach unto the clouds.

17 The prayer of the humble pierceth the clouds: and till it come nigh, he will not be comforted: and will not depart till the most High shall behold to judge righteously, and execute judgment.

18 For the Lord will not be slack, neither will the Mighty be patient towards them, till he have smitten in sunder the loins of the unmerciful, and repayed vengeance to the heathen; till he have taken away the multitude of the proud, and broken the scepter of the unrighteous;

19 Till he have rendered to every man according to his deeds, and to the works of men according to their devices; till he have judged the cause of his people, and made them to rejoice in his mercy.

20 Mercy

## NOTES on Chap. XXXV.

Ver. 1. *He that keepeth the law, &c.]* i. e. He is as acceptable to God as if he brought a multitude of offering; for it is not the number of these, but the integrity of men's lives; not their incense, but their obedience which God loves to be honoured by. Outward sacrifices are only holy when they are joined with the inward sacrifice of the heart; and he no otherwise regards the outward religious works of piety, than as they are visible marks of that spiritual

and invisible worship which he claims as his due, and is the very essence of true religion, John iv. 23.

2 *He that requiteth a good turn, &c.]* The Greek is, He who giveth thanks to God is as acceptable as if he made an offering of fine flour.

8 *With a good eye.]* i. e. Liberally.

9 *And dedicate, &c.]* Or, set apart.

12 *Do not think to corrupt with gifts.]* The margin reads, Diminish nothing of thy offerings.

18 *The multitude of the proud.]* Margin, Cruel oppressors.

20 Mercy is seasonable in the time of affliction, as clouds of rain in the time of drought.

### CHAP. XXXVI.

1 *A prayer for the church against the enemies thereof.* 18 *A good heart, and a froward.* 21 *Of a good wife.*

**H**Ave mercy upon us, O Lord God of all: and behold us:

2 And send thy fear upon all the nations that seek not after thee.

3 Lift up thy hand against the strange nations, and let them see thy power.

4 As thou wast sanctified in us before them: so be thou magnified among them before us.

5 And let them know thee, as we have known thee, that there is no God but only thou, O God.

6 Shew new signs, and make other strange wonders: glorify thy hand, and thy right arm, that they may set forth thy wonderful works.

7 Raise up indignation, and pour out wrath: take away the adversary, and destroy the enemy.

8 Make the time short, remember the covenant, and let them declare thy wonderful works.

9 Let him that escapeth be consumed by the rage of the fire, and let them perish that oppress the people.

10 Smite in sunder the heads of the rulers of the heathen, that say, There is none other but we.

11 Gather all the tribes of Jacob together, and inherit thou them, as from the beginning.

12 O Lord, have mercy upon the people that is called by thy name, and upon Israel, whom thou hast named thy first-born.

13 O be merciful unto Jerusalem, thy holy city, the place of thy rest.

14 Fill Zion with thine unspeakable oracles, and thy people with thy glory.

15 Give testimony unto those that thou hast possessed from the beginning, and raise up prophets that have been in thy name.

16 Reward them that wait for thee, and let thy prophets be found faithful.

17 O Lord, hear the prayer of thy servants, according to the blessing of Aaron over thy people, that all they which dwell upon the earth, may know that thou art the Lord, the eternal God.

18 The belly devoureth all meats, yet is one meat better than another.

19 As the palate tasteth divers kinds of venison: so doth an heart of understanding false speeches.

20 A froward heart causeth heaviness: but a man of experience will recompense him.

21 A woman will receive every man, yet is one daughter better than another.

22 The beauty of a woman cheereth the countenance, and a man loveth nothing better.

23 If there be kindness, meekness, and comfort in her tongue, then is not her husband like other men.

3 B

24 He

20 *Mercy is seasonable.]* Greek, fair.

### NOTES ON CHAP. XXXVI.

Ver. 3 *Against the nations.]* Or, upon.

4 *As thou wast sanctified in us, &c.]* As thou didst get thee a great name formerly, by wonderfully delivering us out of the hands of the Egyptians, in the sight of many nations; and since, by bringing us back from captivity out of so many kingdoms, so do thou raise the glory of thy name among us, by treating them according to their deserts.

8 *Remember the covenant, &c.]* Or, as the Greek has it, *the catb*, by which must be understood the covenant assured with an oath to Abraham, and established with Isaac and Jacob, and afterwards confirmed to David.

14 *With thine unspeakable oracles.]* The margin reads, That it may magnify thine oracles.

15 *And raise up prophets.]* Or, prophecies.

17 *Hear the prayer of thy servants.]* Or, suppliants.

23 *Like other men.]* Margin, Common men.



24 He that getteth a wife, beginneth a possession, a help like unto himself, and a pillar of rest.

25 Where no hedge is, there the possession is spoiled: and he that hath no wife, will wander up and down mourning.

26 Who will trust a thief well-appointed, that skippeth from city to city? so [who will believe] a man that hath no house, and lodgeth wheresoever the night taketh him?

### CHAP. XXXVII.

1 *How to know friends and counsellors.* 12 *The discretion and wisdom of a godly man bleisseth him.* 27 *Learn to refrain thine appetite.*

**E**VERY friend saith, I am his friend also: but there is a friend which is only a friend in name.

2 Is it not a grief unto death, when a companion and friend is turned to an enemy?

3 O wicked imagination, whence camest thou in to cover the earth with deceit?

4 There is a companion which rejoiceth in the prosperity of a friend: but in the time of trouble will be against him.

5 There is a companion which helpeth his friend for the belly, and taketh up the buckler against the enemy.

6 Forget not thy friend in thy mind, and be not unmindful of him in thy riches.

7 Every counsellor extolleth counsel; but there is some that counselleth for himself.

8 Beware of a counsellor, and know be-

fore what need he hath, (for he will counsel for himself) lest he cast the lot upon thee:

9 And say unto thee, Thy way is good: and afterward he stand on the other side, to see what shall befall thee.

10 Consult not with one that suspecteth thee: and hide thy counsel from such as envy thee.

11 Neither consult with a woman touching her of whom she is jealous; neither with a coward, in matters of war; nor with a merchant, concerning exchange; nor with a buyer, of selling; nor with an envious man, of thankfulness; nor with an unmerciful man, touching kindness; nor with the slothful, for any work; nor with an hireling for a year, of finishing work: nor with an idle servant, of much business: hearken not unto these in any matter of counsel.

12 But be continually with a godly man, whom thou knowest to keep the commandments of the Lord, whose mind is according to thy mind, and will sorrow with thee, if thou shalt miscarry.

13 And let the counsel of thine own heart stand: for there is no man more faithful unto thee than it.

14 For a man's mind is sometime wont to tell him more than seven watchmen, that sit above in an high tower.

15 And above all this pray to the most High, that he will direct thy way in truth.

16 Let reason go before every enterprize, and counsel before every action.

17 The

24 *He that getteth a wife, &c.]* He who hath a good wife in all respects, has laid the best foundation of his house, has the surest grounds to build his hopes of happiness upon, and of raising a family to his mind.

*Beginneth a possession.]* Or, to thrive.

### NOTES on Chap. XXXVII.

Ver. 5 *Taketh up the buckler, &c.]* Grotius prefers a quite contrary reading, *Taketh not up the buckler, &c.* He will not defend, or assist him, when any enemy attacks

him; though he made great professions of service whilst he was eating at his table.

*Against the enemy.]* Or, in presence of the enemy.

8 *What need he hath.]* Margin, What use there is of him.

*Lest he cast the lot upon thee.]* It is conjectured, that the true reading of the Greek here should be, *lest he cast something hard in thy way, i. e. lest he give thee some advice which may be an obstruction to thy designs, instead of forwarding them.*

17 The countenance is a sign of changing of the heart.

18 Four manner of things appear: good and evil, life and death; but the tongue ruleth over them continually.

19 There is one that is wise and teacheth many, and yet is unprofitable to himself.

20 There is one that sheweth wisdom in words, and is hated: he shall be destitute of all food.

21 For grace is not given him from the Lord: because he is deprived of all wisdom.

22 Another is wise to himself: and the fruits of understanding are commendable in his mouth.

23 A wise man instructeth his people, and the fruits of his understanding fail not.

24 A wise man shall be filled with blessing, and all they that see him shall count him happy.

25 The days of the life of man may be numbered: but the days of Israel are innumerable.

26 A wise man shall inherit glory among his people, and his name shall be perpetual.

27 My son, prove thy soul in thy life, and see what is evil for it, and give not that unto it.

28 For all things are not profitable for all men, neither hath every soul pleasure in every thing.

29 Be not unsatiable in any dainty thing, nor too greedy upon meats.

30 For excess of meats bringeth sickness, and surfeiting will turn into choler.

31 By surfeiting have many perished,

but he that taketh heed prolongeth his life.

C H A P. XXXVIII.

1 Honour due to the physician, and why.

16 How to weep and mourn for the dead.

24 The wisdom of the learned man, and of the labourer and artificer: with the use of them both.

**H**ONOUR a physician with the honour due unto him, for the uses which you may have of him: for the Lord hath created him.

2 For of the most high cometh healing, and he shall receive honour of the king.

3 The skill of the physician shall lift up his head: and in the sight of great men he shall be in admiration.

4 The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth; and he that is wise will not abhor them.

5 Was not the water made sweet with wood, that the virtue thereof might be known?

6 And he hath given men skill, that he might be honoured in his marvellous works.

7 With such doth he heal [men] and taketh away their pains.

8 Of such doth the apothecary make a confection; and of his works there is no end, and from him is peace over all the earth.

9 My son, in thy sickness be not negligent: but pray unto the Lord, and he will make thee whole.

10 Leave off from sin, and order thy hands aright, and cleanse thy heart from all wickedness.

11 Give a sweet savour, and a memorial of

20 *Destitute of all food.*] Margin, Of Wisdom.

30 *Excess of meats.*] Margin, Variety of meats.

NOTES on Chap. XXXVIII.

Ver. 2 *Shall receive honour.*] Or, a gift.

8 *From him is peace over all the earth.*] Rather, from him is a sweet odour diffused around; for so the word rendered *peace* may be translated.



of fine flour: and make a fat offering, as not being.

12 Then give place to the physician, for the Lord hath created him: let him not go from thee, for thou hast need of him.

13 There is a time when in their hands there is good success.

14 For they shall also pray unto the Lord, that he would prosper that which they give for ease and remedy to prolong life.

15 He that sinneth before his maker, let him fall into the hand of the physician.

16 My son, let tears fall down over the dead, and begin to lament, as if thou hadst suffered great harm thyself: and then cover his body according to the custom, and neglect not his burial.

17 Weep bitterly and make great moan, and use lamentation as he is worthy, and that a day or two, lest thou be evil-spoken of: and then comfort thyself for thy heaviness.

18 For of heaviness cometh death, and the heaviness of the heart breaketh strength.

19 In affliction also sorrow remaineth: and the life of the poor is the curse of the heart.

20 Take no heaviness to heart: drive it away, and remember the last end.

21 Forget it not, for there is no turning again; thou shalt not do him good, but hurt thyself.

22 Remember my judgment: for thine also shall be so; yesterday for me, and to-day for thee.

23 When the dead is at rest, let his remembrance rest, and be comforted for him, when his spirit is departed from him.

24 The wisdom of a learned man cometh by opportunity of leisure: and he that hath little business shall become wise.

25 How can he get wisdom that holdeth the plow, and that glorieth in the goad; that driveth oxen, and is occupied in their labours, and whose talk is of bullocks.

26 He giveth his mind to make furrows: and is diligent to give the kine fodder.

27 So every carpenter and work-master that laboureth night and day: and they that cut and grave seals, and are diligent to make great variety, and give themselves to counterfeit imagery, and watch to finish a work.

28 The smith also sitting by the anvil, and considering the iron-work, the vapour of the fire wasteth his flesh, and he fighteth with the heat of the furnace: the noise of the hammer and the anvil is ever in his ears, and his eyes look still upon the pattern of the thing that he maketh; he setteth his mind to finish his work, and watcheth to polish it perfectly.

29 So doth the potter sitting at his work, and turning the wheel about with his feet, who is always carefully set at his work: and maketh all his work by number.

30 He fashioneth the clay with his arm, and boweth down his strength before his feet; he applieth himself to lead it over; and he is diligent to make clean the furnace.

31 All these trust to their hands: and every

11 *Make a fat offering, as not being* ] Some render it, As if thou wert about to die, i. e. endeavour to make your peace with God, as if you were certain of dying then.

14 *And remedy.* ] Or, curing.

15 *He that sinneth before his Maker, let him fall, &c.* ] Or, he that sinneth grievously against God shall fall, &c. as some versions have it, i. e. shall be long and greatly afflicted with sickness, so as to be almost continually under

the hands of a physician.

22 *Remember my judgment* ] Margin, The sentence upon him.

25 *Whose talk is of bullocks.* ] Greek, of the breed of bullocks.

30 *Boweth down his strength, &c.* ] Margin, Tempereth it with his feet.

every one is wise in his work.

32 Without these cannot a city be inhabited: and they shall not dwell where they will, nor go up and down.

33 They shall not be sought for in public counsel, nor sit high in the congregation: they shall not sit on the judges seat, nor understand the sentence of judgment: they cannot declare justice and judgment, and they shall not be found where parables are spoken.

34 But they will maintain the state of the world, and [all] their desire is in the work of their craft.

### C H A P. XXXIX.

1 *A description of him that is truly wise.*

12 *An exhortation to praise God for his works; which are good to the good, and evil to them that are evil.*

**B**UT he that giveth his mind to the law of the most High, and is occupied in the meditation thereof, will seek out the wisdom of all the ancient, and be occupied in prophecies.

2 He will keep the sayings of the renowned men: and where subtil parables are, he will be there also.

3 He will seek out the secrets of grave sentences, and be conversant in dark parables.

4 He shall serve among great men, and appear before princes: he will travel through strange countries, for he hath tried the good

and the evil among men.

5 He will give his heart to resort early to the Lord that made him, and will pray before the most High, and will open his mouth in prayer, and make supplication for his sins.

6 When the great Lord will, he shall be filled with the spirit of understanding: he shall pour out wise sentences, and give thanks unto the Lord in his prayer.

7 He shall direct his counsel, and knowledge, and in his secrets shall he meditate.

8 He shall shew forth that which he hath learned, and shall glory in the law of the covenant of the Lord.

9 Many shall commend his understanding, and so long as the world endureth, it shall not be blotted out, his memorial shall not depart away, and his name shall live from generation to generation.

10 Nations shall shew forth his wisdom, and the congregation shall declare his praise.

11 If he die, he shall leave a greater name than a thousand: and if he live, he shall increase it.

12 Yet have I more to say, which I have thought upon, for I am filled as the moon at the full.

13 Hearken unto me, ye holy children, and bud forth as a rose growing by the brook of the field:

14 And give ye a sweet savour as frankincense,

3 C

34 *They will maintain the state, &c.]* Notwithstanding they are not fit to be called into the council of the nation, or the seat of judgment, &c. yet are they highly useful and necessary to the world, for building of convenient habitations, preparing of food, or the necessary utensils, &c.

### NOTES ON Chap. XXXIX.

Ver. 1 *He that giveth his mind to the law, &c.]* A truly wise man employs himself in the law of God, studying the philosophy of the ancients, the meaning of prophecies, and attending to the parables and wise maxims of great men. His wisdom entitles him to the company of

princes, and commands respect in the remotest parts of the world; in public assemblies it will bring him into higher repute; it will get him an honourable name while living, and give him a sweet memorial in the grave.

4 *He will travel through strange countries, &c.]* The meaning of this is, that such an one, on account of his great experience, will often be made choice of to be sent as an ambassador to foreign courts; or else, that he will travel into foreign countries, in order to enlarge his knowledge and experience of every thing.

11 *He shall increase it.]* Or, gain unto it.

13 *By the brook of the field.]* Margin, Rivers of water.



incense, and flourish as a lily, send forth a smell, and sing a song of praise, bless the Lord in all his works.

15 Magnify his name, and shew forth his praise with the songs of your lips, and with harps, and in praising him you shall lay after this manner:

16 All the works of the Lord are exceeding good, and whatsoever he commandeth shall be accomplished in due season.

17 And none may say, What is this? wherefore is that? for at time convenient they shall all be sought out: at his commandment the waters stood as an heap, and at the words of his mouth the receptacles of waters.

18 At his commandment is done whatsoever pleaseth him, and none can hinder when he will save.

19 The works of all flesh are before him, and nothing can be hid from his eyes.

20 He seeth from everlasting to everlasting: and there is nothing wonderful before him.

21 A man need not to say, What is this? wherefore is that? for he hath made all things for their uses.

22 His blessing covered the dry land as a river, and watered it as a flood.

23 As he hath turned the waters into saltness: so shall the heathen inherit his wrath.

24 As his ways are plain unto the holy, so are they stumbling-blocks unto the wicked.

25 For the good are good things created from the beginning: so evil things for sinners.

26 The principal things for the whole use of man's life, are water, fire, iron, and salt, flour of wheat, honey, milk, and the blood of the grape, and oil and clothing.

27 All these things are for good to the godly: so to the sinners, they are turned into evil.

28 There be spirits that are created for vengeance, which in their fury lay on sore strokes, in the time of destruction they pour out their force, and appease the wrath of him that made them.

29 Fire and hail, and famine and death, all these were created for vengeance;

30 Teeth of wild beasts, and scorpions, serpents, and the sword, punishing the wicked to destruction.

31 They shall rejoice in his commandment, and they shall be ready upon earth when need is, and when their time is come they shall not transgress his word.

32 Therefore from the beginning I was resolved, and thought upon these things, and have left them in writing.

33 All the works of the Lord are good: and he will give every needful thing in due season.

34 So

22. *His blessing covered the dry land, &c.*] This verse seems to be spoken in particular of the land of Canaan, which God filled with his blessings for the Israelites; as the following verse seems to allude to God's destroying of Sodom and Gomorrah, with the cities of the Plain, and causing the cities and the country around to become desolate.

28. *There be spirits that are created for vengeance, &c.*] Whatever be the true meaning of the word *spirits*, this useful admonition will result from the passage; namely, that the wickedness of man will not escape the vengeance of the Lord; nor his crimes, however secretly they may

have been committed, be buried in forgetfulness.

29. *Death.*] The word *death* here implies, the pestilence.

30. *Serpents.*] Or, *vipers.*

32. *From the beginning I was resolved, &c.*] When I had thoroughly considered the things above delivered, I was confirmed in the belief, that this world is governed by divine providence, and consequently that all the works of the Lord are exceeding good; I have therefore committed these particulars to writing, that succeeding ages may put their trust in him that is able to save, and find comfort and support under every affliction.

34 So that a man cannot say, This is worse than that : for in time they shall all be well approved.

35 And therefore praise ye the Lord with the whole heart and mouth, and bless the name of the Lord.

#### C H A P. XL.

1 *Many miseries in a man's life.* 12 *The reward of unrighteousness, and the fruit of true dealing.* 17 *A virtuous wife, and an honest friend rejoice the heart, but the fear of the Lord is above all.* 28 *A beggar's life is hateful.*

**G**REAT travel is created for every man, and an heavy yoke is upon the sons of Adam, from the day that they go out of their mother's womb, till the day that they return to the mother of all things.

2 Their imagination of things to come, and the day of death [trouble] their thoughts, and [cause] fear of heart;

3 From him that sitteth on a throne of glory, unto him that is humbled in earth and ashes :

4 From him that weareth purple and a crown, unto him that is clothed with a linen frock.

5 Wrath and envy, trouble and unquietness, fear of death, and anger and strife, and in time of rest upon his bed, his night-sleep do change his knowledge.

6 A little or nothing is his rest, and afterward he is in his sleep, as in a day of

keeping watch, troubled in the vision of his heart, as if he were escaped out of a battle.

7 When all is safe, he awaketh and marvelleth that the fear was nothing.

8 [Such things happen] unto all flesh, both man and beast, and that is seven-fold more upon sinners.

9 Death, and blood-shed, strife, and sword, calamities, famine, tribulation, and the scourge.

10 These things are created for the wicked, and for their sakes came the flood.

11 All things that are of the earth shall turn to the earth again : and that which is of the waters doth return into the sea.

12 All bribery and injustice shall be blotted out : but true dealing shall endure for ever.

13 The goods of the unjust shall be dried up like a river, and shall vanish with a noise, like a great thunder in rain.

14 While he openeth his hand he shall rejoice : so shall transgressors come to nought.

15 The children of the ungodly shall not bring forth many branches : but are as unclean roots upon a hard rock.

16 The weed growing upon every water, and bank of a river, shall be pulled up before all grass.

17 Bountifulness is as a most fruitful garden, and mercifulness endureth for ever.

#### C H A P.

#### NOTES ON Chap. XL.

Ver. 1 *Great travel is created for every man, &c.*] The life of man is one perpetual round of care, vexation, and trouble. If a man has nothing at present to disturb him, yet the fear of death, and the apprehension of what may befall him after he has quitted his mortal tabernacle of clay, keep him in continual uneasiness : all are equally subject to the disquietudes of the mind, and diseases of the body ; but they fall with a double weight on the sinful soul.

4 *Unto him that is clothed, &c.*] Margin, To the porter.

10 *These things are created for the wicked, &c.*] i. e. They are ordained in a more particular manner for the wicked. They indeed sometimes attend the righteous ; but then we

should remember, that whatever afflictions they may suffer here will be repaid with an eternal weight of glory in the life to come ; whereas calamities are only forerunners of still greater torments to the wicked, which will seize on them when they have passed the fearful valley that separates time from eternity.

12 *All bribery.*] Greek, Bribes.

13 *The goods of the unjust shall be dried up like a river.*] It should have been rendered, like a torrent, or land-flood.

14 *So shall transgressors come to nought.*] It ought to be read, but transgressors shall come to nought.

17 *A most fruitful garden.*] Margin, A garden that is blessed ; and so ver. 27.



18 To labour, and to be content with that a man hath, is a sweet life: but he that findeth a treasure is above them both.

19 Children, and the building of a city continue a man's name: but a blameless wife is counted above them both.

20 Wine and musick rejoice the heart: but the love of wisdom is above them both.

21 The pipe and the psaltery make sweet melody: but a pleasant tongue is above them both.

22 Thine eye desireth favour and beauty: but more than both, corn while it is green.

23 A friend and companion never meet amiss: but above both is a wife with her husband.

24 Brethren and help are against time of trouble: but alms shall deliver more than them both.

25 Gold and silver make the foot stand sure: but counsel is esteemed above them both.

26 Riches and strength lift up the heart: but the fear of the Lord is above them both: there is no want in the fear of the Lord, and it needeth not to seek help.

27 The fear of the Lord is a fruitful garden, and covereth him above all ory.

28 My son, lead not a beggars life, for better it is to die than to beg.

29 The life of him that dependeth on another man's table, is not to be counted for a life: for he polluteth him elf with other men's meat, but a wife man well-nurtured will beware thereof.

30 Begging is sweet in the mouth of the shameless: but in his belly there shall burn a fire.

### CHAP. XLI.

1 *The remembrance of death.* 3 *Death is not to be feared.* 5 *The ungodly shall be accursed.* 11 *Of an evil and a good name.* 14 *Wisdom is to be uttered.* 16 *Of what things we should be ashamed.*

**O** Death, how bitter is the remembrance of thee to a man that liveth at rest in his possessions, unto the man that hath nothing to vex him, and that hath prosperity in all things; yea, unto him that is yet able to receive meat!

2 O death, acceptable is thy sentence unto the needy, and unto him whose strength faileth, that is now in the last age, and is vexed with all things, and to him that despaireth, and hath lost patience.

3 Fear not the sentence of death, remember them that have been before thee, and that come after, for this is the sentence of the Lord over all flesh.

4 And why art thou against the pleasure of the most High? there is no inquisition in the

18 *To labour, and to be content with that a man hath, &c.]* The meaning seems to be, that the life of such who have a just competency, without being obliged to labour, or even of those who get it by their labour, is sufficiently sweet; but he is beyond either of them upon whom God, without his expecting it, bestows great riches.

22 *Thine eye desireth favour and beauty.]* By favour is here to be understood symmetry; and by corn while it is green, the beauty of nature in the minutest things.

29 *He polluteth himself with other men's meat, &c.]* He exposeth himself to contempt, and doeth that which disgraces him, for the sake of other men's meat.

### NOTES ON CHAP. XLI.

Ver. 1 *O death, how bitter is the remembrance of thee to a*

*man that liveth, &c.]* When a man is in the height of his prosperity, and the abundance of all temporal blessings, and has nothing to fear, and nothing to disturb him in the full enjoyment of whatever this world can produce for the gratification of his most unbounded appetites, how grating must the consideration be, that death will as certainly one day deprive him of them all at once, as that he now enjoys them in their full extent. On the contrary, how welcome is death to him whose age and infirmities, whose distresses, poverty, and misfortunes, have rendered life irksome, tedious, and undesirable?

2 *And is vexed with all things.]* Margin, To whom every thing is troublesome.

4 *Why art thou against the pleasure of the most High? &c.]* This, if duly considered, is a very powerful argument to

the grave, whether thou have lived ten, or an hundred, or a thousand years.

5 The children of finners are abominable children, and they that are conversant in the dwelling of the ungodly.

6 The inheritance of finners children shall perish, and their posterity shall have a perpetual reproach.

7 The children will complain of an ungodly father, because they shall be reproached for his sake.

8 Wo be unto you, ungodly men, which have forsaken the law of the most high God: for if you increase, it shall be to your destruction:

9 And if you be born, you shall be born to a curse: and if you die, a curse shall be your portion.

10 All that are of the earth shall turn to earth again: so the ungodly shall go from a curse to destruction.

11 The mourning of men is about their bodies: but an ill name of finners shall be blotted out.

12 Have regard to thy name: for that shall continue with thee above a thousand great treasures of gold.

13 A good life hath but few days: but a good name endureth for ever.

14 My children, keep discipline in peace: for wisdom that is hid, and a treasure that is not seen, what profit is in them both.

15 A man that hideth his foolishness, is better than a man that hideth his wisdom.

16 Therefore be shamefaced according to my word: for it is not good to retain all shamefacedness, neither is it altogether approved in every thing.

17 Be ashamed of whoredom before father or mother, and of a lie before a prince and a mighty man.

18 Of an offence before a judge and ruler, of iniquity before a congregation and people, of unjust dealing before thy partner and friend:

19 And of theft in regard of the place where thou sojournest, and in regard of the truth of God and his covenant; and to lean with thine elbow upon the meat, and of scorning to give and take.

20 And of silence before them that salute thee, and to look upon an harlot:

21 And to turn away thy face from thy kinsman, or to take away a portion or a gift, or to gaze upon another man's wife.

22 Or to be over-busy with his maid, and come not near her bed: or of upbraiding speeches before friends: and after thou hast given, upbraid not:

23 Or of iterating and speaking again that which thou hast heard, and of revealing of secrets.

24 So shalt thou be truly shamefaced, and find favour before all men.

#### C H A P. XLII.

1 Whereof we should not be ashamed. 9 Be careful of thy daughter. 12 Beware of a woman. 15 The works and greatness of God.

3 D

OF

abate our dread of death; for why should we have such a dread of that, which the most High hath ordained? We have experienced his goodness in giving us life, and why are we afraid that his goodness will fail us in death?

9 *If you be born, you shall be born to a curse, &c.*] The reading in the Greek here seems to be faulty. Some have restored it according to the following sense; If ye shall beget children, ye shall only beget them to their destruction; i. e. they will be very short lived, and not remain either to enjoy your substance, or keep up your name; and

when you die yourselves, ye shall be accounted among abominable things.

19 *Of scorning to give and take.*] The Greek is, Be ashamed to use any fraud with respect to what you pay or receive, or in making of contracts.

21 *Take away a portion or a gift, &c.*] If you are appointed to distribute a portion of any thing, or entrusted to bestow a gift, be ever ashamed to diminish any thing from it.



**O**F these things be not thou ashamed, and accept no person to sin thereby.

2 Of the law of the most High, and his covenant, and of judgment to justify the ungodly :

3 Of reckoning with thy partners and travellers, or of the gift of the heritage of friends :

4 Of exactness of balance and weights, or of getting much or little.

5 And of merchants indifferent selling, of much correction of children, and to make the side of an evil-servant to bleed.

6 Sure keeping is good where an evil wife is, and shut up where many hands are.

7 Deliver all things in number and weight, and put all in writing that thou givest out, or receivest in.

8 Be not ashamed to inform the unwise and foolish, and the extreme aged that contendeth with those that are young: thus shalt thou be truly learned, and approved of all men living.

9 The father waketh for the daughter when no man knoweth, and the care for her taketh away sleep: when she is young, lest she pass away the flower of her age; and being married, lest she should be hated :

10 In her virginity, lest she should be

defiled, and gotten with child in her father's house; and having an husband, lest she should misbehave herself; and when she is married, lest she should be barren.

11 Keep a sure watch over a shameless daughter, lest she make thee a laughing-stock to thine enemies, and a by-word in the city, and a reproach among the people, and make thee ashamed before the multitude.

12 Behold not every bodies beauty, and sit not in the midst of women.

13 For from garments cometh a moth, and from women wickedness.

14 Better is the churlishness of a man, than a courteous woman, a woman, *I say*, which bringeth shame and reproach.

15 I will now remember the works of the Lord, and declare the things that I have seen: In the words of the Lord are his works.

16 The sun that giveth light, looketh upon all things, and the work thereof is full of the glory of the Lord.

17 The Lord hath not given power to the saints to declare all his marvellous works, which the Almighty Lord firmly settled, that whatsoever is, might be established for his glory.

18 He seeketh out the deep, and the heart,

## NOTES on Chap. XLII.

Ver. 1 *And accept no person to sin thereby.*] The conjunctive particle *and*, stands here for *to wit*.

3 *Of reckoning with thy partners.*] Margin, Of thy partner's speech.

*And travellers.*] Or, companions.

*Of the gift.*] Or, giving.

5 *Indifferent selling.*] Or, without profit.

*Of much correction of children, &c.*] Rather, of much discipline, &c. i. e. Be not ashamed of being assiduous in the instruction of your children, nor of chastizing your servant, if his crime deserves it.

7 *That thou givest out.*] Margin, Dealest for.

8 *To inform.*] Or, rebuke.

*That contendeth with those that are young.*] Margin, That is accused of fornication.

13 *From garments cometh a moth, and from women wickedness.*] Namely, wanton looks, and alluring words, to stir up lascivious desires, and this may well be compared to a moth; for as it frets a garment without being perceived, till too late to prevent it, so wanton looks and words draw a man before he is well-guarded against them, to acts of impurity.

14 *The churlishness.*] Margin, Wickedness.

15 *In the words of the Lord are his works.*] i. e. His works are done by his words; he need only to speak the word, and the thing is done.

16 *The sun that giveth light, looketh upon all, &c.*] The sense of this verse is, That as the light of the sun is seen through all the earth, so is the whole universe full of the majesty of God. What is rendered in our versions, *the work thereof*, is in the Greek, *his work*, namely, God's work.

heart, and considereth their crafty devices : for the Lord knoweth all that may be known, and he beholdeth the signs of the world.

19 He declareth the things that are past, and for to come, and revealeth the steps of hidden things.

20 No thought escapeth him, neither any word is hidden from him.

21 He hath garnished the excellent works of his wisdom, and he is from everlasting to everlasting : unto him may nothing be added, neither can he be diminished, and he hath no need of any counsellor.

22 Oh how desirable are all his works ! and that a man may see even to a spark.

23 All these things live and remain for ever, for all uses, and they are all obedient.

24 All things are double one against another : and he hath made nothing imperfect.

25 One thing establisheth the good of another : and who shall be filled with beholding his glory ?

#### C H A P. XLIII.

1 *The works of God in heaven, and in earth, and in the sea, are exceeding glorious and wonderful.* 29 *Yet God himself in his power and wisdom is above all.*

**T**HE pride of the height, the clear firmament, the beauty of heaven,

with his glorious shew.

2 The sun when it appeareth, declaring at his rising a marvellous instrument, the work of the most High.

3 At noon it parcheth the country, and who can abide the burning heat thereof ?

4 A man blowing a furnace is in works of heat, but the sun burneth the mountains three times more ; breathing out fiery vapours, and sending forth bright beams, it dimmeth the eyes.

5 Great is the Lord that made it, and at his commandment it runneth hastily.

6 He made the moon also to serve in her season, for a declaration of times, and a sign of the world.

7 From the moon is the sign of feasts, a light that decreaseth in her perfection.

8 The month is called after her name, increasing wonderfully in her changing, being an instrument of the armies above, shining in the firmament of heaven.

9 The beauty of heaven, the glory of the stars, an ornament giving light in the highest places of the Lord.

10 At the commandment of the holy One, they will stand in their order, and never faint in their watches.

11 Look upon the rainbow, and praise him that made it, very beautiful it is in the brightness thereof.

12 It

18 *The Lord.*] Or, the Highest.

*He beholdeth the signs of the world.*] Calmet thinks the meaning of this is, that God sees into all future events, and knows perfectly all the changes that happen in nature.

23 *All these things live and remain for ever.*] i. e. Retain and exercise their full force and power, fulfilling the purposes they are ordained to, and obeying the laws of God.

24 *All things are double one against another, &c.*] Each thing has its contrary nature, and the one is opposed to the other : as the earth, an opaque body, to the sun, a body of light ; night to day, heat to cold.

25 *One thing establisheth the good of another, &c.*] These contraries set off each other by their mutual vicissitude, and contribute to render each other more beneficial, as well as more beautiful.

#### NOTES on Chap. XLIII.

Ver. 1. *The pride of the height, the clear, &c.*] The son of Sirach having led us thus far through a variety of useful observations, grave and wise maxims, and given many wholesome instructions and infallible rules for the conduct of life, and for managing our commerce and dealings with the world, interspersing in his discourses many noble encomiums on the excellence of wisdom, recommending piety, and the fear of God, and establishing the belief of a Deity, from the visible effects of his power in the creation, comes in this chapter, to speak more particularly of the wonderful acts of God's wisdom and omnipotence, manifested through all his works.

2 *A marvellous instrument.*] Margin, Vessel.

5 *It runneth hastily.*] Margin, He stayed his course.



12 It compasseth the heaven about with a glorious circle, and the hands of the most High have bended it.

13 By his commandment he maketh the snow to fall apace, and sendeth swiftly the lightnings of his judgment.

14 Through this the treasures are opened, and clouds fly forth as fowls.

15 By his great power he maketh the clouds firm, and the hail-stones are broken small.

16 At his sight the mountains are shaken, and at his will the south-wind bloweth.

17 The noise of the thunder maketh the earth to tremble: so doth the northern storm and the whirlwind: as birds flying he scattereth the snow, and the falling down thereof is as the lighting of grasshoppers.

18 The eye marvelleth at the beauty of the whiteness thereof, and the heart is astonished at the raining of it.

19 The hoar-frost also as salt he poureth on the earth, and being congealed, it lieth on the top of sharp stakes.

20 When the cold north-wind bloweth, and the water is congealed into ice, it abideth upon every gathering together of water, and clotheth the water as with a breast-plate.

21 It devoureth the mountains, and burneth the wilderness, and consumeth the grass as fire.

22 A present remedy of all is a mist coming speedily: a dew coming after heat, refresheth.

23 By his counsel he appeaseth the deep, and planteth islands therein.

24 They that sail on the sea, tell of the danger thereof; and when we hear it with our ears, we marvel thereat.

25 For therein be strange and wonderful works, variety of all kinds of beasts, and whales created.

26 By him the end of them hath prosperous success, and by his word all things consist.

27 We may speak much, and yet come short: wherefore in sum, he is all.

28 How shall we be able to magnify him? for he is great above all his works.

29 The Lord is terrible and very great, and marvellous is his power.

30 When you glorify the Lord, exalt him as much as you can; for even yet will he far exceed: and when you exalt him, put forth all your strength, and be not weary; for you can never go far enough.

31 Who hath seen him that he might tell us? and who can magnify him as he is?

32 There are yet hid greater things than these be, for we have seen but a few of his works:

33 For the Lord hath made all things, and to the godly hath he given wisdom.

#### CHAP. XLIV.

1 The praise of certain holy men: 16 Of Enoch, 17 Noah, 19 Abraham, 22 Isaac, 23 and Jacob.

LET us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us.

2 The Lord hath wrought great glory by

14 Through this the treasures are opened, &c.] i. e. For the purpose of executing God's judgments, these treasures of his are opened; he prepares the great artillery of heaven, namely, either the winds to raise storms and tempests, or clouds, which assemble and come speedily together like a flight of birds, and descend either in a deluge of rain, or fall in snow.

15 The hailstones are broken small.] The meaning of which seems to be, That the hailstones leap here and there,

like small stones broken off some rock.

17 Maketh the earth to tremble.] Margin, To groan as a woman in her travail.

19 It lieth upon the top of sharp stakes.] Margin, It is as the point of sharp stakes.

22 After heat.] Or, upon the heat.

#### NOTES on Chap. XLIV.

Ver 1 Let us now praise famous men, &c.] Next to the

by them, through his great power from the beginning.

3 Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms, men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, and declaring prophecies:

4 Leaders of the people by their counsels, and by their knowledge of learning meet for the people, wise and eloquent in their instructions.

5 Such as found out musical tunes, and recited verses in writing.

6 Rich men furnished with ability, living peaceably in their habitations.

7 All these were honoured in their generations, and were the glory of their times.

8 There be of them that have left a name behind them that their praises might be reported.

9 And some there be which have no memorial, who are perished, as though they had never been, and are become as though they had never been born, and their children after them.

10 But these were merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten.

11 With their seed shall continually remain a good inheritance, and their children are within the covenant.

12 Their seed stands fast, and their children for their sakes.

13 Their seed shall remain for ever, and their glory shall not be blotted out.

14 Their bodies are buried in peace, but

their name liveth for evermore.

15 The people will tell of their wisdom, and the congregation will shew forth their praise.

16 Enoch pleased the Lord, and was translated, being an example of repentance to all generations.

17 Noah was found perfect and righteous in the time of wrath, he was taken in exchange [for the world] therefore was he left as a remnant unto the earth, when the flood came.

18 An everlasting covenant was made with him, that all flesh should perish no more by the flood.

19 Abraham was a great father of many people: in glory was there none like unto him.

20 Who kept the law of the most High, and was in covenant with him: he established the covenant in his flesh, and when he was proved, he was found faithful.

21 Therefore he assured him by an oath, that he would bless the nations in his seed, and that he would multiply him as the dust of the earth, and exalt his seed as the stars, and cause them to inherit from sea to sea, and from the river unto the utmost part of the land.

22 With Isaac did he establish likewise [for Abraham his father's sake] the blessing of all men, and the covenant.

23 And made it rest upon the head of Jacob. He acknowledged him in his blessing, and gave him an heritage, and divided

3 E his

praise due to the Almighty for the wonders which are to be met with in every part of the creation, we should not forget the eulogiums of those brave and famous men, whom God has made the instruments of his own glory, and the means of innumerable benefits to mankind. Their names and heroic actions are transmitted to us, that we may honour their memories, and that their fame may be handed down to latest posterity.

5 *And recited verses.*] Margin, *Ditties.*

12 *For their sakes.*] Margin, *After them.*

16 *Enoch pleased the Lord.*] In the list of those ancient

renowned heroes, Enoch stands the foremost, who for his singular piety was exempted from the pains of death, and admitted in the flesh to the immediate presence of God.

17 *Noah was found, &c.*] Noah, for his righteousness, had the honour of seeing two worlds; and had a promise given him that all flesh should no more perish with a flood.

19 *Abraham, &c.*] Abraham, in all his trials, was found a faithful servant to God; and for his faithfulness, the Almighty established his covenant with him, promising, that in him all the nations of the earth should be blessed.



his portions, among the twelve tribes did he part with them.

CHAP. XLV. *The praise of Moses, 6 of Aaron, 23 and of Phinees.*

AND he brought out of him a merciful man, which found favour in the sight of all flesh, even Moses beloved of God, and men, whose memorial is blessed.

2 He made him like to the glorious saints, and magnified him, so that his enemies stood in fear of him.

3 By his words he caused the wonders to cease, and he made him glorious in the sight of kings, and gave him a commandment for his people, and shewed him part of his glory.

4 He sanctified him in his faithfulness, and meekness, and chose him out of all men.

5 He made him to hear his voice, and brought him into the dark cloud, and gave him commandments before his face, even the law of life and knowledge, that he might teach Jacob his covenants, and Israel his judgments.

6 He exalted Aaron an holy man like unto him, even his brother, of the tribe of Levi.

7 An everlasting covenant he made with him, and gave him the priesthood among the people, he beautified him with comely ornaments, and cloathed him with a robe of glory.

8 He put upon him perfect glory: and strengthened him with rich garments, with breeches, with a long robe, and the ephod.

9 And he compassed him with pomegranates, and with many golden bells round about, that as he went, there might be a sound, and a noise made that might be heard in the temple, for a memorial to the children of his people;

10 With an holy garment, with gold, and blue silk, and purple, the work of the embroiderer, with a breast-plate of judgment, and with Urim and Thummim;

11 With twisted scarlet, the work of the cunning workman, with precious stones graven like seals, and set in gold, the work of the jeweller, with a writing engraved for a memorial, after the number of the tribes of Israel.

12 He set a crown of gold upon the miter, wherein was engraved Holiness, an ornament of honour, a costly work, the desires of the eyes, goodly and beautiful.

13 Before him there were none such, neither did ever any stranger put them on, but only his children, and his children's children perpetually.

14 Their sacrifices shall be wholly consumed every day twice continually.

15 Moses consecrated him, and anointed him with holy oil: this was appointed unto him by an everlasting covenant, and to his seed so long as the heavens should remain, that they should minister unto him,

### NOTES on Chap. XLV.

Ver. 1 *He brought out of him a merciful man, &c.*] From Jacob descended Moses, who was the peculiar favourite of heaven, God having eminently distinguished him above the rest of the people, honoured him before kings, given him the law to promulgate, brought him into his immediate presence, and shewed him part of his essential glory.

6 *He exalted Aaron, &c.*] Aaron was also highly exalted for his holiness, dignified with the priesthood, and

ornamented with the holy garments, the breast-plate of judgment, and the urim and thummim; nor were these honours confined to him alone, his children inherited them to the latest posterity, and were the continual intercessors between God and the people. When conspiracies were formed against him in the wilderness, God destroyed his enemies with a consuming fire: and though God gave him no inheritance among his brethren, yet he had a much better lot; for God himself was his portion.

8 *Strengthened him with rich garments.*] Greek, Vessels, or instruments.

and execute the office of the priesthood, and bless the people in his name.

16 He chose him out of all men living to offer sacrifices to the Lord, incense and a sweet savour, for a memorial to make reconciliation for his people.

17 He gave unto him his commandments, and authority in the statutes of judgments, that he should teach Jacob the testimonies, and inform Israel in his laws.

18 Strangers conspired together against him, and maligned him in the wilderness, even the men that were of Dathan's and Abiron's side, and the congregation of Core, with fury and wrath.

19 This the Lord saw, and it displeased him, and in his wrathful indignation were they consumed: he did wonders upon them to consume them with the fiery flame.

20 But he made Aaron more honourable, and gave him an heritage, and divided unto him the first-fruits of the increase, especially he prepared bread in abundance.

21 For they eat of the sacrifices of the Lord, which he gave unto him and his seed.

22 Howbeit in the land of the people he had no inheritance, neither had he any portion among the people: for the Lord himself is his portion and inheritance.

23 The third in glory is Phinees the son of Eleazar, because he had zeal in the fear of the Lord, and stood up with good courage of heart, when the people were turned back, and made reconciliation for Israel.

24 Therefore was there a covenant of peace made with him, that he should be the chief of the sanctuary and of his people, and that he and his posterity should have

the dignity of the priesthood for ever, and

25 According to the covenant made with David son of Jesse, of the tribe of Juda, that the inheritance of the king should be to his posterity alone: so the inheritance of Aaron should also be unto his seed.

26 God give you wisdom in your heart to judge his people in righteousness, that their good things be not abolished, and that their glory may endure for ever.

#### C H A P. XLVI.

1 *The praise of Joshua, 9 of Caleb, 13 of Samuel.*

**J**ESUS the son of Nave was valiant in the wars, and was the successor of Moses in prophecies, who according to his name was made great for the saving of the elect of God, and taking vengeance of the enemies that rose up against them, that he might set Israel in their inheritance.

2 How great glory gat he when he did lift up his hands, and stretched out his sword against the cities!

3 Who before him so stood to it? for the Lord himself brought his enemies unto him.

4 Did not the sun go back by his means? and was not one day as long as two?

5 He called upon the most high Lord, when the enemies pressed upon him on every side, and the great Lord heard him.

6 And with hailstones of mighty power, he made the battle to fall violently upon the nations, and in the descent [of Beth-horon] he destroyed them that resisted, that the nations might know all their strength, because he fought in the fight of the Lord, and he followed the mighty One.

7 In the time of Moses also he did a work

23 *The third in glory, &c.*] Phinees deserves the third place in this sacred catalogue of worthies, for his zeal in defending the honour of God, when idolatry had been introduced among the people.

#### NOTES on Chap. XLVI.

Ver. 1 *Jesus the son of Nave, &c.*] Joshua, here called Jesus the son of Nave, was Israel's renowned general.



work of mercy, he and Caleb the son of Jephunne, in that they withstood the congregation, and withheld the people from sin, and appeased the wicked murmuring.

8 And of six hundred thousand people on foot, they two were preserved to bring them into the heritage, even unto the land that floweth with milk and honey.

9 The Lord gave strength also unto Caleb, which remained with him unto his old age: so that he entered upon the high places of the land, and his seed obtained it for an heritage.

10 That all the children of Israel might see that it is good to follow the Lord.

11 And concerning the judges, every one by name, whose heart went not a whoring, nor departed from the Lord, let their memory be blessed.

12 Let their bones flourish out of their place, and let the name of them that were honoured, be continued upon their children.

13 Samuel the prophet of the Lord, beloved of his Lord, established a kingdom, and anointed princes over his people.

14 By the law of the Lord he judged the congregation, and the Lord had respect unto Jacob.

15 By his faithfulness he was found a true prophet, and by his word he was known to be faithful in vision.

16 He called upon the mighty Lord, when his enemies pressed upon him on

every side, when he offered the sucking lamb.

17 And the Lord thundered from heaven, and with a great noise made his voice to be heard.

18 And he destroyed the rulers of the Tyrians, and all the princes of the Philistines.

19 And before his long sleep he made protestations in the sight of the Lord and his anointed, I have not taken any man's goods, so much as a shoe: and no man did accuse him.

20 And after his death he prophesied, and shewed the king his end, and lift up his voice from the earth in prophecy, to blot out the wickedness of the people.

#### C H A P. XLVII.

1 *The praise of Nathan, 2 of David, 12 of Solomon, his glory and infirmities, 23 of his end and punishment.*

**A**N D after him rose up Nathan to prophesy in the time of David.

2 As is the fat taken away from the peace-offering, so was David chosen out of the children of Israel.

3 He played with lions as with kids, and with bears as with lambs.

4 Slew he not a giant when he was yet but young? and did he not take away reproach from the people, when he lifted up his hand with the stone in the sling, and beat down the boasting of Goliath?

5 For he called upon the most high Lord, and

and the successor of Moses. He led the people forth to war, fought their battles, and settled them in their promised inheritance in the land of Canaan.

9 *The Lord gave strength unto Caleb.*] Caleb was a zealous assertor of God's honour, particularly at the time when he and Joshua withstood the whole congregation, who, on the evil report which the rest of the spies brought of the promised land, were for returning to Egypt; for this their courageous act, these two only of the whole multitude of Israel were suffered to pass over into Canaan.

13 *Samuel the prophet.*] Samuel was greatly beloved of God; by him the first kings of Israel were anointed; he was a righteous judge, and an equitable dispenser of the law.

#### NOTES on Chap. XLVII.

Ver. 1 *After him rose up Nathan, &c.*] Nathan succeeded Samuel, and prophesied in the days of David, who was selected from the people in his youth to do great things for the honour of God, and the good of his country. Being strengthened and inspired by the Almighty, he had the courage to meet the giant Goliath, whom he killed; by which brave exploit he raised his reputation, even above that of the king: nor was he only famous for heroic deeds in the field of battle, but his piety was equal to his bravery; and he was as zealous in the duties of religion, as courageous against his enemies.

3 *He played with lions.*] Margin, He smote lions.

and he gave him strength in his right hand to slay that mighty warrior, and set up the horn of his people.

6 So the people honoured him with ten thousands, and praised him in the blessings of the Lord, in that he gave him a crown of glory.

7 For he destroyed the enemies on every side, and brought to nought the Philistines his adversaries, and brake their horn in sunder unto this day.

8 In all his works he praised the holy One most High, with words of glory, with his whole heart he sung songs, and loved him that made him.

9 He set fingers also before the altar, that by their voices they might make sweet melody, and daily sing praises in their songs.

10 He beautified their feasts, and set in order the solemn times, until the end, that they might praise his holy name, and that the temple might sound from morning.

11 The Lord took away his sins, and exalted his horn for ever: he gave him a covenant of kings, and a throne of glory in Israel.

12 After him rose up a wise son, and for his sake he dwelt at large.

13 Solomon reigned in a peaceable time, and was honoured; for God made all quiet round about him, that he might build an house in his name, and prepare his sanctuary for ever.

14 How wise wast thou in thy youth, and as a flood filled with understanding!

15 Thy soul covered the whole earth,

and thou filledst it with dark parables.

16 Thy name went far unto the islands; and for thy peace thou wast beloved.

17 The countries marvelled at thee for thy songs, and proverbs, and parables, and interpretations.

18 By the name of the Lord God, which is called the Lord God of Israel, thou didst gather gold as tin, and didst multiply silver as lead.

19 Thou didst bow thy loins unto women, and by thy body thou wast brought into subjection.

20 Thou didst stain thy honour and pollute thy seed: so that thou broughtest wrath upon thy children, and wast grieved for thy folly.

21 So the kingdom was divided, and out of Ephraim ruled a rebellious kingdom.

22 But the Lord will never leave off his mercy, neither shall any of his works perish, neither will he abolish the posterity of his elect, and the seed of him that loveth him he will not take away: wherefore he gave a remnant unto Jacob, and out of him a root unto David.

23 Thus rested Solomon with his fathers, and of his seed he left behind him Roboam, even the foolishness of the people, and one that had no understanding, who turned away the people through his counsel. There was also Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin, and shewed Ephraim the way of sin.

24 And their sins were multiplied exceedingly, that they were driven out of the land.

3 F

25 For

7 Brought to nought the Philistines.] Or, despised them.

10 Until the end.] Margin, Perfectly.

11 A throne of glory.] Or, of a kingdom.

12 After him rose up a wise son, &c.] His son Solomon erected a most magnificent mansion for the residence of his God, who gave him wisdom superior to all his predecessors, and raised his reputation, giving him a name more renowned than the most famous philosophers that were his

cotemporaries, for his knowledge and deep insight into the mysteries of nature, and dark recesses of wisdom: yet, indulging his sensual appetite for women, he stained his honour, and forfeited the favour of God; so that he had children who were a disgrace to his family, and a curse to the people.

19 By thy body.] Margin, In, &c.



25 For they sought out all wickedness, till the vengeance came upon them.

#### CHAP. XLVIII.

1 *The praise of Elias, 12 of Eliseus, 17 and of Ezekias.*

**T**HEN stood up Elias the prophet as fire, and his word burnt like a lamp.

2 He brought a fore famine upon them; and by his zeal he diminished their number.

3 By the word of the Lord he shut up the heaven, and also three times brought down fire.

4 O Elias, how wast thou honoured in thy wonderous deeds! and who may glory like unto thee!

5 Who didst raise up a dead man from death, and his soul from the place of the dead by the word of the most High.

6 Who broughtest kings to destruction, and honourable men from their bed.

7 Who heardest the rebuke of the Lord in Sinai, and in Horeb the judgment of vengeance.

8 Who anointedst kings to take revenge, and prophets to succeed after him.

9 Who wast taken up in a whirlwind of fire, and in a chariot of fiery horses.

10 Who wast ordained for reproofs in

their times, to pacify the wrath of the Lord's judgment, before it brake forth into fury, and to turn the heart of the father unto the son, and to restore the tribes of Jacob.

11 Blessed are they that saw thee, and slept in love, for we shall surely live.

12 Elias it was who was covered with a whirlwind: and Eliseus was filled with his spirit: whilst he lived he was not moved *with the presence* of any prince, neither could any bring him into subjection.

13 No word could overcome him, and after his death, his body prophesied.

14 He did wonders in his life, and at his death were his works marvellous.

15 For all this the people repented not, neither departed they from their sins, till they were spoiled, and carried out of their land, and were scattered through all the earth: yet there remained a small people, and a ruler in the house of David:

16 Of whom some did that which was pleasing to God, and some multiplied sins.

17 Ezekias fortified his city, and brought in water into the midst thereof: he digged the hard rock with iron, and made wells for waters.

18 In

#### NOTES on Chap. XLVIII.

Ver. 1 *Then stood up Elias the prophet as fire, &c.*] When Israel, through the bad example of their kings, had forsaken the true God, he raised up the prophet Elias, who zealously asserted the honour of Jehovah, and was enabled to do many miraculous works. At his word fire came down from heaven, and a famine upon the land; the dead was raised by his prayer; and by the same power, kings were deprived of life, and great men deposed from their elevated stations. He authorized kings to execute vengeance, and appointed his successors in the prophetic dignity; and at last he ascended the heights of heaven in a fiery chariot.

3 *He shut up the heaven.*] Margin, Made heaven to hold up.

5 *From the place of the dead.*] Or, the grave.

6 *From their bed.*] Or, seat.

8 *To succeed after him.*] Margin, Thee.

10 *Who wast ordained.*] Or, written of.

*To restore.*] Or, establish.

11 *Slept in love.*] Margin, Were adorned with love.

12 *Eliseus was filled with his spirit, &c.*] Eliseus, his servant and successor, was blessed with the same spirit; for he was never daunted at the frowns of kings; his life was a continued series of miraculous actions; and when he lay in his grave, the lifeless corpse wrought a miracle.

2 Kings ch. xiii. 21.

13 *No word.*] Or, nothing.

*After his death his body prophesied.*] To prophesy, besides the foretelling of future events, denotes here to work miracles: for the writer refers to what happened, when a dead corpse being cast into the sepulchre where Elisha's body lay, it revived.

17 *Ezekias, &c.*] Ezekias (Hezekiah) was a good king, and did many beneficial acts for the public; wherefore when he was besieged by a mighty army, which he was unable to encounter by his own strength, God himself appeared for him, and overthrew his enemies by the intercession of Isaiah the prophet.

18 In his time Sennacherib came up, and sent Rabfaces, and lift up his hand against Sion, and boasted proudly.

19 Then trembled their hearts and hands, and they were in pain as women in travail.

20 But they called upon the Lord which is merciful, and stretched out their hands towards him: and immediately the holy One heard them out of heaven, and delivered them by the ministry of Esay.

21 He smote the host of the Assyrians, and his angel destroyed them.

22 For Ezekias had done the thing that pleased the Lord, and was strong in the ways of David his father, as Esay the prophet, who was great and faithful in his vision, had commanded him.

23 In his time the sun went backward, and he lengthened the king's life.

24 He saw by an excellent spirit what should come to pass at the last, and he comforted them that mourned in Sion.

25 He shewed what should come to pass for ever, and secret things or ever they came.

#### C H A P. XLIX.

1 *The praise of Josias, 4 of David and Ezekias, 6 of Jeremy, 8 of Ezekiel, 11 Zorobabel, 12 Jesus the son of Josedec: 13 Of Neemias, Enoch, Seth, Sem, and Adam.*

**T**HE remembrance of Josias is like the composition of the perfume that

is made by the art of the apothecary: it is sweet as honey in all mouths, and as musick at a banquet of wine.

2 He behaved himself uprightly in the conversion of the people, and took away the abominations of iniquity.

3 He directed his heart unto the Lord, and in the time of the ungodly he established the worship of God.

4 All except David, and Ezekias, and Josias, were defective: for they forsook the law of the most High, even the kings of Judah failed.

5 Therefore he gave their power unto others, and their glory unto a strange nation.

6 They burnt the chosen city of the sanctuary, and made the streets desolate, according to the prophecy of Jeremias.

7 For they entreated him evil, who nevertheless was a prophet sanctified in his mother's womb, that he might root out, and afflict, and destroy, and that he might build up also and plant.

8 It was Ezekiel who saw the glorious vision which was shewed him upon the chariot of the cherubims.

9 For he made mention of the enemies under the figure of the rain, and directed them that went right.

10 And of the twelve prophets let the memorial be blessed, and let their bones flourish again out of their place: for they comforted Jacob, and delivered them by assured hope.

11 How

20 *By the ministry.] Or, hand.*

#### NOTES on Chap. XLIX.

Ver. 1 *The remembrance of Josias, &c.]* King Josias has left a sweet memorial of his name and good deeds. He not only served God most religiously himself, but zealously exerted all his power to convert his people to the true worship.

2 *He behaved, &c.] Or, prospered.*

5 *Their power.] Or, horn.*

6 *According to the prophecy of Jeremias.]* Margin, By the hand of Jeremy.

9 *And directed them, &c.] Or, did good.*

10 *Of the twelve prophets let the memorial, &c.]* He speaks here of the twelve minor prophets, whose prophecies complete the Old Testament. From the mention of these here, it seems manifest, that the canon of the sacred books was already made, when the tract of Ecclesiasticus was composed, and the prophecies digested into one body.



11 How shall we magnify Zorobabel? even he was as a signet on the right hand.

12 So was Jesus the son of Josedec: who in their time builded the house, and set up an holy temple to the Lord, which was prepared for everlasting glory.

13 And among the elect was Neemias, whose renown is great, who raised up for us the walls that were fallen, and set up the gates and the bars, and raised up our ruins again.

14 But upon the earth was no man created like Enoch; for he was taken from the earth.

15 Neither was there a man born like unto Joseph, a governor of his brethren, a stay of the people, whose bones were regarded of the Lord.

16 Sem and Seth were in great honour among men, and so was Adam above every living thing in the creation.

#### CHAP. L.

1 Of Simon the son of Onias. 22 How the people were taught to praise God, and pray.  
27 The conclusion.

**S**imon the high priest the son of Onias, who in his life repaired the house again, and in his days fortified the temple.

2 And by him was built from the foundation the double height, the high fortress of the wall about the temple.

3 In his days the cistern to receive water, being in compass as the sea, was covered with plates of brass.

4 He took care of the temple that it

should not fall, and fortified the city against besieging.

5 How was he honoured in the midst of the people, in his coming out of the sanctuary!

6 He was as the morning star in the midst of a cloud, and as the moon at the full:

7 As the sun shining upon the temple of the most High, and as the rainbow giving light in the bright clouds:

8 And as the flower of roses in the spring of the year, as lilies by the rivers of waters, and as the branches of the frankincense-tree in the time of summer:

9 As fire and incense in the censer, and as a vessel of beaten gold set with all manner of precious stones:

10 And as a fair olive-tree budding forth fruit, and as a cypress-tree which groweth up to the clouds.

11 When he put on the robe of honour, and was clothed with the perfection of glory, when he went up to the holy altar, he made the garment of holiness honourable.

12 When he took the portions out of the priest's hands, he himself stood by the hearth of the altar, compassed with his brethren round about, as a young cedar in Libanus, and as palm-trees compassed they him round about.

13 So were all the sons of Aaron in their glory, and the oblations of the Lord in their hands before all the congregation of Israel.

14 And

#### NOTES on Chap. L.

Ver. 1 *Simon the high-priest, &c.*] Large encomiums are bestowed on Simon the high-priest. From which, and from the holy rapture which the son of Sirach seems to be in, when speaking of those happy times that Israel enjoyed under Simon, and likewise from his exhortation to

bless the Lord for those glorious things, of which he seems to have been a partaker; and from his prayer, that those mercies may be confirmed and continued to his people; from all these, it is very probable, that he lived in or pretty near the time of this Simon, the high-priest.

5 *Out of the sanctuary.*] Greek, The house of the vail.

14 And finishing the service at the altar, that he might adorn the offering of the most high Almighty.

15 He stretched out his hand to the cup, and poured of the blood of the grape, he poured out at the foot of the altar, a sweet smelling savour unto the most high King of all.

16 Then shouted the sons of Aaron, and sounded the silver trumpets, and made a great noise to be heard, for a remembrance before the most High.

17 Then all the people together hasted, and fell down to the earth upon their faces to worship their Lord God Almighty the most High.

18 The fingers also sang praises with their voices, with great variety of sounds was there made sweet melody.

19 And the people besought the Lord the most High by prayer before him that is merciful, till the solemnity of the Lord was ended, and they had finished his service.

20 Then he went down, and lifted up his hands over the whole congregation of the children of Israel, to give the blessing of the Lord with his lips, and to rejoice in his name.

21 And they bowed themselves down to worship the second time, that they might receive a blessing from the most High.

22 Now therefore bless ye the God of

all, which only doeth wondrous things every where, which exalteth our days from the womb, and dealeth with us according to his mercy.

23 He grant us joyfulnes of heart, and that peace may be in our days in Israel for ever.

24 That he would confirm his mercy with us, and deliver us at his time.

25 There be two manner of nations which my heart abhorreth, and the third is no nation :

26 They that sit upon the mountain of Samaria, and they that dwell amongst the Philistines, and that foolish people that dwell in Sichem.

27 Jesus the son of Sirach of Jerusalem hath written in this book, the instruction of understanding and knowledge, who out of his heart poured forth wisdom.

28 Blessed is he that shall be exercised in these things, and he that layeth them up in his heart, shall become wise.

29 For if he do them, he shall be strong to all things : for the light of the Lord leadeth him, who giveth wisdom to the godly. Blessed be the Lord for ever. Amen, amen.

## C H A P. LI.

A Prayer of Jesus the son of Sirach.

**I** Will thank thee, O Lord, and King, and praise thee, O God, my Saviour, I do give praise unto thy name.

3 G

2 For

16 *The silver trumpets.*] Margin, Trumpets beaten forth with the hammer.

25 *There be two, &c.*] With respect to this author's hating from his heart the three whole nations, it is to be remembered, that in his days, Christ was not yet come upon the earth to inculcate upon human nature the loving of our enemies, and wishing well to those who wish us ill.

27 *Jesus the son of Sirach.*] Dr. Prideaux thinks that these three last verses are the words of the translator, as well as the following prayer.

## NOTES on Chap. LI.

Ver. 1 *I will thank thee, O Lord, and king, &c.*] The first part of this chapter contains a prayer of Jesus the son of Sirach. The purport of which is, to pay his grateful acknowledgments to God for the many mercies and deliverances he had experienced in the course of his life; and from the several topics of his thanksgiving, we may learn the different kinds of troubles, difficulties, distresses, and dangers, with which he had been afflicted



2. For thou art my defender and helper, and hast preserved my body from destruction, and from the snare of the slanderous tongue, and from the lips that forge lies, and hast been mine helper against mine adversaries:

3 And hast delivered me according to the multitude of thy mercies, and greatness of thy name from the teeth of them that were ready to devour me, and out of the hands of such as sought after my life, and from the manifold afflictions which I had;

4 From the choking of fire on every side, and from the mids of the fire which I kindled not:

5 From the depth of the belly of hell, from an unclean tongue, and from lying words:

6 By an accusation to the king from an unrighteous tongue, my soul drew near even unto death, my life was near to the hell beneath.

7 They compassed me on every side, and there was no man to help me: I looked for the succour of men, but there was none.

8 Then thought I upon thy mercy, O Lord, and upon thy acts of old, how thou deliverest such as wait for thee, and savest them out of the hands of the enemies.

9 Then lifted I up my supplication from the earth, and prayed for deliverance from death.

10 I called upon the Lord, the Father of my Lord, that he would not leave me in

the days of my trouble, and in the time of the proud when there was no help.

11 I will praise thy name continually, and will sing praise with thanksgiving; and so my prayer was heard.

12 For thou savedst me from destruction, and deliveredst me from the evil time: therefore will I give thanks, and praise thee, and bless thy name, O Lord.

13 When I was yet young, or ever I went abroad, I desired wisdom openly in my prayer.

14 I prayed for her before the temple, and will seek her out even to the end.

15 Even from the flower, till the grape was ripe, hath my heart delighted in her: my foot went the right way, from my youth up sought I after her.

16 I bowed down mine ear a little, and received her, and gat much learning.

17 I profited therein, *therefore* will I ascribe the glory unto him that giveth me wisdom.

18 For I purposed to do after her, and earnestly I followed that which is good; so shall I not be confounded.

19 My soul hath wrestled with her, and in my doings I was exact: I stretched forth my hands to the heaven above, and bewailed my ignorances of her.

20 I directed my soul unto her, and I found her in pureness: I have had my heart joined with her from the beginning, therefore shall I not be forsaken.

21 My heart was troubled in seeking her: therefore have I gotten a good possession.

22 The Lord hath given me a tongue for my

and surrounded, and from which, upon his earnest solicitations to the throne of grace, he had been happily delivered.

3 *From the teeth.*] Greek, The gnashing of the teeth.

11 *And so my prayer.*] Margin, Because my prayer.

13 *I went abroad.*] Margin, Went astray.

18 *I purposed to do after her, &c.*] I determined to direct my actions according to the dictates of wisdom.

20 *I directed my soul.*] Or, I got understanding.

21 *My heart.*] Margin, My bowels.

my reward, and I will praise him there-with.

23 Draw near unto me, you unlearned, and dwell in the house of learning.

24 Wherefore are ye slow, and what say you of these things, seeing your souls are very thirsty?

25 I opened my mouth, and said, Buy her for yourselves without money.

26 Put your neck under the yoke, and let your soul receive instruction; she is

hard at hand to find.

27 Behold with your eyes, how that I have had but little labour, and have gotten unto me much rest.

28 Get learning with a great sum of money, and get much gold by her.

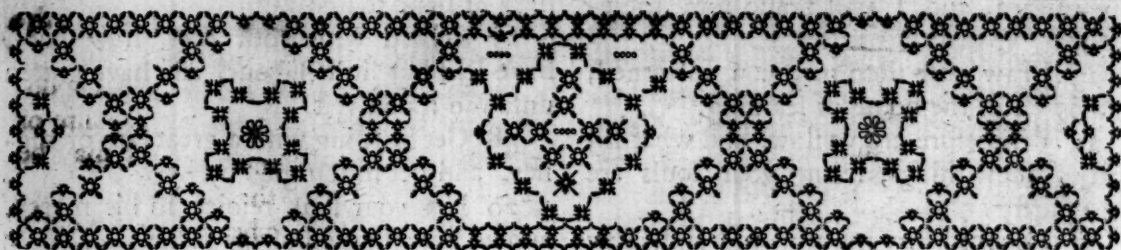
29 Let your soul rejoice in his mercy, and be not ashamed of his praise.

30 Work your work betimes, and in his time he will give you your reward.

The End of the Book of ECCLESIASTICUS.

5 MA 56





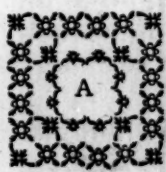
# B A R U C H.

## THE ARGUMENT.

*Dr. Prideaux observes, that it is altogether uncertain of what authority the book of Baruch is, by whom it was written, or whether any thing related therein be historically true, or the whole of it a fiction. Grotius thinks it wholly feigned by some Hellenistical Jew, under Baruch's name; and so do many others: and it cannot be denied but that they have strong reasons on their side. The subject of the book is an epistle sent, or feigned to be sent, by king Jehoiachin, and the Jews in captivity with him in Babylon, to their brethren the Jews, that were still left in Judea and Jerusalem, with an historical preface premised; in which it is related how Baruch, being then at Babylon, did in the name of the same king, and the people by their appointment, draw up the said epistle, and afterwards read it to them for their approbation; and how that the collection being then made which is above-mentioned, the epistle, with the money, was sent to Jerusalem. There are three copies of it; one in Greek, and the other two in Syriac.*

### CHAP. I.

*1 Baruch wrote a book in Babylon. 5 The Jews there wept at the reading of it. 7 They send money and the book to the brethren at Jerusalem.*

ND these are the words of the book which Baruch the son of Nerias, the son of Maafias, the son of Sedecias, the son of Asadiah, the son of Chelcias, wrote in Babylon.

2 In

### NOTES on Chap. I.

Ver. 1 *These are the words of the book, &c.*] After Baruch has given us his own genealogy, he informs us of the precise time of his reading this book to the people, elders, and nobility, then residing in Babylon, and of what

happened thereupon, namely, that the people were so sensibly affected by it, that they made a collection, and sent it, together with this book, to Irachim the high-priest, at Jerusalem; at the same time that the king of Babylon returned the holy vessels he had taken out of the temple. He intimates also the design for which the mo-

2 In the fifty year, and in the seventh day of the month, what time as the Chaldeans took Jerusalem, and burnt it with fire.

3 And Baruch did read the words of this book, in the hearing of Jechonias the son of Joachim king of Juda, and in the ears of all the people that came to hear the book,

4 And in the hearing of the nobles, and of the king's sons, and in the hearing of the elders, and of all the people, from the lowest unto the highest, even of all them that dwelt at Babylon, by the river Sud.

5 Whereupon they wept, fasted and prayed before the Lord.

6 They made also a collection of money, according to every man's power.

7 And they sent it to Jerusalem unto Joachim the high-priest the son of Chelcias, son of Salom, and to the priests, and to all the people which were found with him at Jerusalem.

8 At the same time, when he received the vessels of the house of the Lord, that were carried out of the temple, to return them into the land of Juda the tenth day of the month Sivan, namely, silver vessels, which Sedecias the son of Josias king of Juda had made,

9 After that Nabuchodonosor king of Babylon had carried away Jeconias, and the princes, and the captives, and the mighty men, and the people of the land from Jerusalem, and brought them unto Babylon :

10 And they said, Behold we have sent you money to buy you burnt-offerings, and sin-offerings, and incense, and prepare ye

man, and offer upon the altar of the Lord our God.

11 And pray for the life of Nabuchodonosor king of Babylon, and for the life of Balthasar his son, that their days may be upon earth as the days of heaven.

12 And the Lord will give us strength, and lighten our eyes, and we shall live under the shadow of Nabuchodonosor king of Babylon, and under the shadow of Balthasar his son, and we shall serve them many days, and find favour in their sight.

13 Pray for us also unto the Lord our God, for we have sinned against the Lord our God; and unto this day the fury of the Lord and his wrath is not turned from us.

14 And ye shall read this book which we have sent unto you, to make confession in the house of the Lord, upon the feasts and solemn days.

15 And ye shall say, To the Lord our God *belongeth* righteousness, but unto us the confusion of faces, as *it is come to pass* this day, unto them of Juda, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem,

16 And to our kings, and to our princes, and to our priests, and to our prophets, and to our fathers.

17 For we have sinned before the Lord,

18 And disobeyed him, and have not hearkened unto the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in the commandments that he gave us openly :

19 Since the day that the Lord brought our fore-fathers out of the land of Egypt, unto this present day, we have been disobedient unto the Lord our God, and we have

3 H

been

ney had been collected among the Jews at Babylon, namely, to buy the offerings and incense which were to be prepared for the altar of the Lord at Jerusalem; and exhorts them to pray for the life of the king, and his son, that so they who were yet captive in Babylon, might live peaceably and quietly under that government; and that they

would supplicate the Almighty to turn away his wrath from them.

3 *Joachim.*] Or, Joacim.

5 *And prayed.*] Margin, And vowed vows.

9 *The captives.*] Or, prisoners.

10 *Manna.*] Gr. corruptly for *mincha*, i. e. A meat-offering.



been negligent in not hearing his voice.

20 Wherefore the evils cleaved unto us, and the curse which the Lord appointed by Moses his servant, at the time that he brought our fathers out of the land of Egypt, to give us a land that floweth with milk and honey, like as *it is to see* this day.

21 Nevertheless, we have not hearkened unto the voice of the Lord our God according unto all the words of the prophets, whom he sent unto us.

22 But every man followed the imagination of his own wicked heart, to serve strange gods, and to do evil in the sight of the Lord our God.

#### CHAP. II.

*The prayer and confession which the Jews at Babylon made, and sent in that book unto the brethren in Jerusalem.*

**T**herefore the Lord hath made good his word, which he pronounced against us, and against our judges that judged Israel, and against our kings, and against our princes, and against the men of Israel and Juda,

2 To bring upon us great plagues, such as never happened under the whole heaven, as it came to pass in Jerusalem, according to the things that are written in the law of Moses,

3 That a man should eat the flesh of his own son, and the flesh of his own daughter.

4 Moreover, he hath delivered them to

be in subjection to all the kingdoms that are round about us, to be as a reproach and desolation among all the people round about, where the Lord hath scattered them.

5 Thus we were cast down and not exalted, because we have sinned against the Lord our God, and have not been obedient unto his voice.

6 To the Lord our God *appertaineth* righteousness: but unto us and to our fathers open shame, as *appeareth* this day.

7 For all these plagues are come upon us, which the Lord hath pronounced against us.

8 Yet have we not prayed before the Lord, that we might turn every one from the imaginations of his wicked heart.

9 Wherefore the Lord watched over us for evil, and the Lord hath brought it upon us: for the Lord is righteous in all his works which he hath commanded us.

10 Yet we have not hearkened unto his voice, to walk in the commandments of the Lord, that he hath set before us.

11 And now, O Lord God of Israel, that hast brought thy people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and high arm, and with signs, and with wonders, and with great power, and hast gotten thyself a name, as *appeareth* this day:

12 O Lord our God, we have sinned, we have done ungodly, we have dealt unrighteously in all thine ordinances.

13 Let thy wrath turn from us: for we are

#### NOTES on Chap. II.

Ver. 1 *Therefore the Lord hath made good, &c.*] Here begins the prayer and confession which the Jews at Babylon had made for themselves, and sent for their brethren at Jerusalem. They confess the justice of God in bringing upon them those plagues and calamities which were threatened by Moses, Deut. xxviii. in case of their disobedience; that notwithstanding the severity of God's judgments upon them, yet they had not humbled themselves, but continued in their rebellious practices against him. Wherefore they now beseech the Lord, who wonderfully

delivered their forefathers from their bondage in Egypt, that on their sincere repentance, he would be merciful to them, and deliver them from their present captivity. They strengthen their confidence in the goodness of God, that he will do according to what he had promised by his servant Moses, Lev. xxvi. Deut. xxviii. viz. That if they would in their captivity humble themselves, and turn to the Lord with all their hearts, he would remember his covenant with their ancestors, and deliver them from their enemies.

5 *We were cast down.*] The Greek is, We were beneath, and not above.

are but a few left among the heathen, where thou hast scattered us.

14 Hear our prayers, O Lord, and our petitions, and deliver us for thine own sake, and give us favour in the sight of them which have led us away :

15 That all the earth may know that thou art the Lord our God, because Israel and his posterity is called by thy name.

16 O Lord, look down from thy holy house, and consider us : bow down thine ear, O Lord, to hear us.

17 Open thine eyes and behold, for the dead that are in the graves, whose souls are taken from their bodies, will give unto the Lord neither praise nor righteousness :

18 But the soul that is greatly vexed, which goeth stooping and feeble, and the eyes that fail, and the hungry soul will give thee praise and righteousness, O Lord.

19 Therefore we do not make our humble supplication before thee, O Lord our God, for the righteousness of our fathers, and of our kings.

20 For thou hast sent out thy wrath and indignation upon us, as thou hast spoken by thy servants the prophets, saying,

21 Thus saith the Lord, Bow down your shoulders to serve the king of Babylon : so shall ye remain in the land that I gave unto your fathers.

22 But if ye will not hear the voice of the Lord to serve the king of Babylon,

23 I will cause to cease out of the cities of Juda, and from without Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of joy, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride : and the whole land shall be desolate of inhabitants.

24 But we would not hearken unto thy

voice, to serve the king of Babylon : therefore hast thou made good the words that thou spakest by thy servants the prophets, namely that the bones of our kings, and the bones of our fathers should be taken out of their places.

25 And lo, they are cast out to the heat of the day, and to the frost of the night, and they died in great miseries by famine, by sword, and by pestilence.

26 And the house which is called by thy name (hast thou laid waste) as *it is to be seen* this day, for the wickedness of the house of Israel, and the house of Juda.

27 O Lord our God, thou hast dealt with us after all thy goodness, and according to all that great mercy of thine,

28 As thou spakest by thy servant Moses, in the day when thou didst command him to write thy law before the children of Israel, saying,

29 If ye will not hear my voice, surely this very great multitude shall be turned into a small *number* among the nations where I will scatter them.

30 For I knew that they would not hear me, because it is a stiff-necked people : but in the land of their captivities they shall remember themselves,

31 And shall know that I am the Lord their God : for I will give them an heart, and ears to hear.

32 And they shall praise me in the land of their captivity, and think upon my name,

33 And return from their stiff neck, and from their wicked deeds : for they shall remember the way of their fathers, which sinned before the Lord.

34 And I will bring them again into the land

15 *Because Israel and his posterity is called by thy name.*] Greek, Thy name is called upon Israel.

17 *Whose souls.*] Greek, Spirit, or life.

29 *This very great multitude.*] Greek, This great swarm.

30 *Shall remember themselves.*] Margin, Come to themselves.

33 *Return from their stiff neck.*] Greek, Back.



land which I promised with an oath unto their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and they shall be lords of it: and I will increase them, and they shall not be diminished.

35 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them to be their God, and they shall be my people: and I will no more drive my people of Israel out of the land that I have given them.

### CHAP. III.

1 *The rest of their prayer and confession contained in that book which Baruch wrote, and sent to Jerusalem.* 30 *Wisdom was shewed first to Jacob, and was seen upon the earth.*

O Lord almighty, God of Israel, the soul in anguish, the troubled spirit crieth unto thee.

2 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy: for thou art merciful; and have pity upon us, because we have sinned before thee.

3 For thou endurest for ever, and we perish utterly.

4 O Lord almighty, thou God of Israel, hear now the prayers of the dead Israelites, and of their children, which have sinned before thee, and not hearkened unto the voice of thee their God: for the which cause these plagues cleave unto us.

5 Remember not the iniquities of our fore-fathers: but think upon thy power, and thy name now at this time.

6 For thou art the Lord our God, and

thee, O Lord, will we praise.

7 And for this cause thou hast put thy fear in our hearts, to the intent that we should call upon thy name, and praise thee in our captivity: for we have called to mind all the iniquity of our fore-fathers that sinned before thee.

8 Behold, we are yet this day in our captivity, where thou hast scattered us, for a reproach and a curse, and to be subject to payments, according to all the iniquities of our fathers, which departed from the Lord our God.

9 Hear, Israel, the commandments of life: give ear to understand wisdom.

10 How happeneth it, Israel, that thou art in thine enemies land, that thou art waxen old in a strange country, that thou art defiled with the dead,

11 That thou art counted with them that go down into the grave?

12 Thou hast forsaken the fountain of wisdom.

13 For if thou hadst walked in the way of God, thou shouldest have dwelled in peace for ever.

14 Learn where is wisdom, where is strength, where is understanding; that thou mayest know also where is length of days, and life, where is the light of the eyes, and peace.

15 Who hath found out her place? or who hath come into her treasures?

16 Where are the princes of the heathen become, and such as ruled the beasts upon the earth.

17 They

### NOTES on Chap. III.

Ver. 1 O Lord almighty, God of Israel, &c.] The Jews in captivity proceed in their prayer and confession, begun in the preceding chapter. In the bitterness of their anguish, they pour out complaints and supplications to God, beseeching him to regard their extreme afflictions, and to bury in oblivion the iniquity of their fathers. They conceive hopes of his mercy, because he had inclined their hearts to call upon his name, and to praise

him in their captivity, and remind him of their sufferings and slavery in their present subjection, inflicted on them in consequence of the sins of their progenitors. At the end of the prayer and confession, Baruch, addressing himself to Israel, entreats them to hearken to the instructions of wisdom. He interrogates them concerning the length of their captivity, and the cause of their pollutions in a strange country. The cause was plain, namely, their contempt of wisdom, and disobedience to the law of God.

17 They that had their pastime with the fowls of the air, and they that hoarded up silver and gold wherein men trust, and made no end of their getting?

18 For they that wrought in silver, and were so careful, and whose works are unsearchable.

19 They are vanished and gone down to the grave, and others are come up in their steads.

20 Young men have seen light, and dwelt upon the earth: but the way of knowledge have they not known,

21 Nor understood the paths thereof, nor laid hold of it: their children were far off from that way.

22 It hath not been heard of in Chanaan, neither hath it been seen in Theman.

23 The Agarenes that seek wisdom upon earth, the merchants of Meran, and of Theman, the authors of fables, and searchers out of understanding: none of these have known the way of wisdom, or remember her paths.

24 O Israel how great is the house of God, and how large is the place of his possession!

25 Great, and hath none end: high, and unmeasurable.

26 There were the giants famous from the beginning, that were of so great stature, and so expert in war.

27 Those did not the Lord choose, neither gave he the way of knowledge unto them.

28 But they were destroyed, because they had no wisdom, and perished through their own foolishness.

29 Who hath gone up into heaven, and taken her, and brought her down from the clouds?

30 Who hath gone over the sea, and found her, and will bring her for pure gold?

31 No man knoweth her way, nor thinketh of her path.

32 But he that knoweth all things, knoweth her, and hath found her out with his understanding: he that prepared the earth for evermore, hath filled it with four-footed beasts.

33 He that sendeth forth light, and it goeth; calleth it again, and it obeyeth him with fear.

34 The stars shined in their watches, and rejoiced: when he calleth them, they say, Here we be; and so with cheerfulness they shewed light unto him that made them.

35 This is our God, and there shall none other be accounted of in comparison of him.

36 He hath found out all the way of knowledge, and hath given it unto Jacob his servant, and to Israel his beloved.

37 Afterward did he shew himself upon earth, and conversed with men.

#### C H A P. IV.

1- The book of commandments is that wisdom which was commanded in the former chapter. 25 The Jews are moved to patience, and to hope for the deliverance.

**T**HIS is the book of the commandments of God, and the law that endureth for ever: all they that keep it shall come to life: but such as leave it shall die.

3 L

2 Turn

23 *The authors.]* Margin, Expounders.

#### NOTES on Chap. IV.

Ver. 1 *This is the book of the commandments, &c.]* Baruch commends this book as containing God's everlasting law, and that those who observe and obtain it, shall obtain life; but the transgressors of it certain death. He therefore

exhorts them to lay hold of it, that their minds may be illuminated thereby. He comforts his brethren with the consideration that the will of God is made known to them, and that tho' by reason of their sins, they were captives in a strange land, and Jerusalem, for the iniquities of its inhabitants, was desolate, and laid waste, yet God would deliver them from their enemies.



2 Turn thee, O Jacob, and take hold of it: walk in the presence of the light thereof, that thou mayest be illuminated.

3 Give not thine honour to another, nor the things that are profitable unto thee, to a strange nation.

4 O Israel, happy are we: for things that are pleasing to God are made known unto us.

5 Be of good cheer, my people, the memorial of Israel.

6 Ye were sold to the nations, not for [your] destruction: but because ye moved God to wrath, ye were delivered unto the enemies.

7 For ye provoked him that made you, by sacrificing unto devils, and not to God.

8 Ye have forgotten the everlasting God, that brought you up, and ye have grieved Jerusalem that nursed you.

9 For when she saw the wrath of God coming upon you, she said, Harken, O ye that dwell about Sion: God hath brought upon me great mourning.

10 For I saw the captivity of my sons and daughters, which the everlasting brought upon them.

11 With joy did I nourish them; but sent them away with weeping and mourning.

12 Let no man rejoice over me a widow, and forsaken of many, who for the sins of my children am left desolate: because they departed from the law of God.

13 They knew not his statutes, nor walked in the ways of his commandments, nor trod in the paths of discipline in his righteousness.

14 Let them that dwell about Sion come, and remember ye the captivity of my sons,

and daughters, which the Everlasting hath brought upon them.

15 For he hath brought a nation upon them from far, a shameless nation, and of a strange language, who neither revered old man, nor pitied child.

16 These have carried away the dear-beloved children of the widow, and left her that was alone, desolate without daughters.

17 But what can I help you.

18 For he that brought these plagues upon you, will deliver you from the hands of your enemies.

19 Go your way, O my children, go your way: for I am left desolate.

20 I have put off the clothing of peace, and put upon me the sackcloth of my prayer: I will cry unto the everlasting in my days.

21 Be of good cheer, O my children, cry unto the Lord, and he shall deliver you from the power and hand of the enemies.

22 For my hope is in the Everlasting that he will save you, and joy is come unto me from the holy One, because of the mercy which shall soon come unto you from the Everlasting our Saviour.

23 For I sent you out with mourning and weeping: but God will give you to me again, with joy and gladness for ever.

24 Like as now the neighbours of Sion have seen your captivity; so shall they see shortly your salvation from our God, which shall come upon you with great glory, and brightness of the Everlasting.

25 My children, suffer patiently the wrath that is come upon you from God, for thine enemy hath persecuted thee; but shortly thou shalt see his destruction, and shalt tread upon his neck.

26 My

2 In the presence of the light thereof.] Greek, To the shining before the light thereof.

13 Not trod in the paths of discipline in his righteousness.]

Margin, Of his discipline in righteousness.

20 The cloathing of peace.] Margin, Prosperity.

In my days.] Margin, In the time of my affliction.

26 My delicate ones have gone rough ways, and were taken away as a flock caught of the enemies.

27 Be of good comfort, O my children, and cry unto God: for you shall be remembered of him that brought these things upon you.

28 For as it was your mind to go astray from God: so being returned, seek him ten times more.

29 For he that hath brought these plagues upon you, shall bring you everlasting joy again with your salvation.

30 Take a good heart, O Jerusalem: for he that gave thee that name will comfort thee.

31 Miserable are they that afflicted thee, and rejoiced at thy fall.

32 Miserable are the cities which thy children served: miserable is she that received thy sons.

33 For as she rejoiced at thy ruin, and was glad of thy fall: so shall she be grieved for her own desolation.

34 For I will take away the rejoicing of her great multitude, and her pride shall be turned into mourning.

35 For fire shall come upon her from the Everlasting, long to endure, and she shall be inhabited of devils for a great time.

36 O Jerusalem, look about thee towards the east, and behold the joy that cometh unto thee from God.

37 Lo, thy sons come whom thou sentest away, they come gathered together from the east to the west, by the word of the holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God.

## CHAP. V.

Jerusalem is moved to rejoice, and to behold their return out of captivity with glory.

**P**UT off, O Jerusalem, the garment of thy mourning and affliction, and put on the comeliness of the glory that cometh from God for ever.

2 Cast about thee a double garment of the righteousness which cometh from God; and set a diadem on thine head, of the glory of the Everlasting.

3 For God will shew thy brightness unto every country under heaven.

4 For thy name shall be called of God for ever, The peace of righteousness, and the glory of God's worship.

5 Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand on high, and look about toward the east, and behold thy children gathered from the west unto the east by the word of the holy One, rejoicing in the remembrance of God.

6 For they departed from thee on foot, and were led away of their enemies: but God bringeth them unto thee exalted with glory, as children of the kingdom.

7 For God hath appointed that every high hill, and banks of long continuance should be cast down, and valleys filled up, to make even the ground, that Israel may go safely in the glory of God.

8 Moreover, even the woods, and every sweet-smelling tree, shall overshadow Israel by the commandment of God.

9 For God shall lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that cometh from him.

The

26 My delicate ones.] Margin, My darlings.

### NOTES on Chap. V.

Ver. 1 Put off, O Jerusalem, the garment of thy mourning, &c.] Baruch continues his exhortation for Jerusalem, to rejoice and invest herself with the garment of righteousness, with which she shall once more appear glorious in

the eyes of the whole world. He bids her look towards the east, and behold her children, who were dragged away from her on foot, returning to her with joy and gladness, and triumphing in the Lord, who will level all obstructions, lead them in the light of his glory, and make them partakers of his mercy and righteousness.



## The Epistle of JEREMY.

## CHAP. VI.

1 The cause of their captivity is their sin.  
 2 The place whereto they were carried is Babylon: the vanity of whose idols and idolatry is set forth at large in this chapter.

A Copy of an epistle which Jeremy sent unto them which were to be led captives into Babylon by the king of the Babylonians, to certify them as it was commanded him of God.

2 Because of the sins which ye have committed before God, ye shall be led away captives into Babylon, by Nabuchodonosor king of the Babylonians.

3 So when ye be come unto Babylon, ye shall remain there many years, and for a long season, namely seven generations: and after that I will bring you away peaceably from thence.

4 Now shall ye see in Babylon gods of silver, and of gold, and of wood, borne upon shoulders, which cause the nations to fear.

5 Beware therefore that ye in no wise be like to strangers, neither be ye afraid of them when ye see the multitude before them, and behind them, worshipping them.

6 But say ye in your hearts, O Lord, we must worship thee.

7 For mine angel is with you, and I myself caring for your souls.

8 As for their tongue, it is polished by the workman, and they themselves are gilded, and laid over with gold, yet are

they but false, and cannot speak.

9 And taking gold as it were for a virgin that loves to go gay, they make crowns for the heads of their gods.

10 Sometimes also the priests convey from their gods, gold and silver, and bestow it upon themselves.

11 Yea, they will give thereof to the common harlots, and deck them as men with garments [being] gods of silver, and gods of gold and wood.

12 Yet cannot these gods save themselves from rust and moths, though they be covered with purple raiment.

13 They wipe their faces because of the dust of the temple, when there is much upon them.

14 And he that cannot put to death one that offendeth him, holdeth a scepter, as though he were a judge of the country.

15 He hath also in his right hand a dagger, and an ax: but cannot deliver himself from war and thieves.

16 Whereby they are known not to be gods: therefore fear them not.

17 For like as a vessel that a man useth, is nothing worth when it is broken; even so it is with their gods: when they be set up in the temple, their eyes be full of dust, through the feet of them that come in.

18 And as the doors are made sure on every side upon him that offendeth the king, as being committed to suffer death: even so the priests make fast their temples, with doors, with locks and bars, lest their gods be spoiled with robbers.

19 They light them candles, yea, more than

## NOTES on Chap. VI.

Ver. 1. *A copy of an epistle which Jeremy, &c.]* If this epistle was written by the prophet Jeremiah, it was undoubtedly penned immediately upon the taking of Jerusalem by the Chaldeans, and while the people were in the

enemies camp, and not yet carried out of the land into their captivity. However, it is generally looked upon as fictitious. St. Jerome calls it *ῥυδωγραφον*, i. e. a false, or feigned writing.

11 *To the common harlots.]* Margin, which prostitute themselves openly.

than for themselves, whereof they cannot see one.

20 They are as one of the beams of the temple, yet they say their hearts are gnawed upon by things creeping out of the earth, and when they eat them and their clothes, they feel it not.

21 Their faces are blacked through the smoke that comes out of the temple.

22 Upon their bodies and heads, sit bats, swallows, and birds, and the cats also.

23 By this you may know that they are no gods: therefore fear them not.

24 Notwithstanding the gold that is about them to make them beautiful, except they wipe off the rust, they will not shine: for neither when they were molten, did they feel it.

25 The things wherein there is no breath, are bought for a most high price.

26 They are borne upon shoulders, having no feet, whereby they declare unto men that they be nothing worth.

27 They also that serve them are ashamed; for if they fall to the ground at any time, they cannot rise up again of themselves: neither if one set them upright, can they move of themselves: neither if they be bowed down, can they make themselves straight: but they set gifts before them as unto dead men.

28 As for the things that are sacrificed unto them, their priests sell and abuse: in like manner their wives lay up part thereof in salt, but unto the poor and impotent they give nothing of it.

29 Menstruous women, and women in child-bed eat their sacrifices: by these things ye may know that they are no gods: fear

them not.

30 For how can they be called gods? because women set meat before the gods of silver, gold, and wood.

31 And the priests sit in their temples, having their cloaths rent, and their heads and beards shaven, and nothing upon their heads.

32 They roar and cry before their gods, as men do at the feast, when one is dead.

33 The priests also take off their garments, and clothe their wives and children.

34 Whether it be evil that one doeth unto them, or good, they are not able to recompense it; they can neither set up a king, nor put him down.

35 In like manner, they can neither give riches nor money, though a man make a vow unto them, and keep it not, they will not require it.

36 They can save no man from death, neither deliver the weak from the mighty.

37 They cannot restore a blind man to his sight, nor help any man in his distress.

38 They can shew no mercy to the widow, nor do good to the fatherless.

39 Their gods of wood, and which are overlaid with gold and silver, are like the stones that be hewn out of the mountain: they that worship them shall be confounded.

40 How should a man then think and say that they are gods, when even the Chaldeans themselves dishonour them?

41 Who if they shall see one dumb that cannot speak, they bring him and intreat Bel that he may speak, as though he were able to understand.

20 *Are gnawed upon.*] Greek, Licked.

25 *For a most high price.*] Margin, Any price.

27 *Gifts.*] Margin, Offerings.

28 *And abuse.*] Or, spend.

41 *They bring him and intreat Bel.*] Margin, Bid him call upon Bel.



42 Yet they cannot understand this themselves, and leave them: for they have no knowledge.

43 The women also with cords about them sitting in the ways, burn bran for perfume: but if any of them drawn by some that passeth by, lie with him; she reproacheth her fellow that she was not thought as worthy as herself, nor her cord broken.

44 Whatsoever is done among them, is false: how may it then be thought or said that they are gods?

45 They are made of carpenters and goldsmiths: they can be nothing else than the workmen will have them to be.

46 And they themselves that made them can never continue long; how should then the things that are made of them be gods?

47 For they left lies and reproaches to them that come after.

48 For when there cometh any war or plague upon them, the priest consult with themselves, where they may be hidden with them.

49 How then cannot men perceive that they be no gods, which can neither save themselves from war nor from plague?

50 For seeing they be but of wood, and overlaid with silver and gold, it shall be known hereafter that they are false:

51 And it shall manifestly appear to all nations and kings that they are no gods, but the works of men's hands, and that there is no work of God in them.

52 Who then may not know that they are no gods?

53 For neither can they set up a king in the land, nor give rain unto men.

54 Neither can they judge their own cause, nor redress a wrong, being unable:

for they are as crows between heaven and earth.

55 Whereupon when fire falleth upon the house of gods of wood, or laid over with gold or silver, their priests will flee away, and escape; but they themselves shall be burnt asunder like beams.

56 Moreover, they cannot withstand any king or enemies? how can it then be thought or said that they be gods?

57 Neither are those gods of wood, and laid over with silver or gold, able to escape either from thieves or robbers.

58 Whose gold, and silver, and garments wherewith they are clothed, they that are strong do take, and go away withal: neither are they able to help themselves.

59 Therefore it is better to be a king that sheweth his power, or else a profitable vessel in an house, which the owner shall have use of, than such false gods; or to be a door in an house, to keep such things safe as be therein, than such false gods: or a pillar of wood in a palace, than such false gods.

60 For sun, moon, and stars, being bright, and sent to do their offices, are obedient.

61 In like manner the lightning when it breaketh forth, is easy to be seen, and after the same manner the wind bloweth in every country.

62 And when God commandeth the clouds to go over the whole world, they do as they are bidden.

63 And the fire sent from above to consume hills and woods, doth as it is commanded; but these are like unto them neither in shew nor power.

64 Wherefore is it neither to be supposed nor said that they are gods, seeing they are able neither to judge causes, nor to do good unto men.

65 Know

42 They have no knowledge.] Or, sense.

61 After the same manner.] Margin, The same wind bloweth.

65 Knowing therefore that they are no gods, fear them not.

66 For they can neither curse nor bless kings.

67 Neither can they shew signs in the heavens among the heathen, nor shine as the sun, nor give light as the moon.

68 The beasts are better than they; for they can get under a covert, and help themselves.

69 It is then by no means manifest unto us that they are gods: therefore fear them not.

70 For as a scare-crow in a garden of cucumbers keepeth nothing; so are their

gods of wood, and laid over with silver and gold.

71 And likewise their gods of wood, and laid over with silver and gold, are like to a white thorn in an orchard, that every bird sitteth upon; as also to a dead body that is cast into the dark.

72 And you shall know them to be no gods by the bright purple that rotteth upon them; and they themselves afterward shall be eaten, and shall be a reproach in the country.

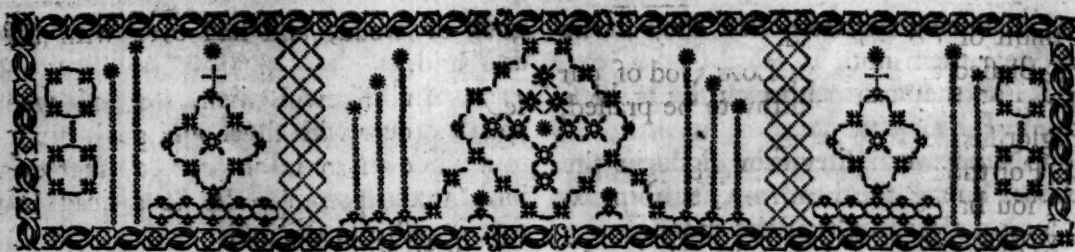
73 Better therefore is the just man that hath none idols: for he shall be far from reproach.

72 By the bright purple. [Margin, By the purple and brightness.]

The End of the Book of BARUCH.

5 MA 56





The Song of the three holy Children, which followeth in the third chapter of D A N I E L after this place,---fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. That which followeth is not in the Hebrew, to wit, *And they walked--* unto these words, *Then Nebuchadnezzar--* verse 24.

#### THE A R G U M E N T.

*This song of the three children was never received into the Jewish canon, and neither is, nor as appears, ever was extant in the Hebrew or Chaldee language. Though the earliest ages of Christianity received this addition as apocryphal; yet they read and esteemed it as a good formulary of pious thoughts and devout prayers, to be used in the midst of extreme calamity, and imminent dangers. From the tenth verse there is ground to conjecture, that it is of the same scope with the book of Baruch; and therefore that the author of one might possibly have written the other.*

2 Azarias his prayer and confession in the flame, 24 wherewith the Chaldeans about the oven were consumed, but the three children within it were not hurt. 28 The song of the three children in the oven.

**A**ND they walked in the midst of the fire, praising God and blessing the Lord.

2 Then Azarias stood up, and prayed on this manner; and opening his mouth in the

#### NOTES on the Song of the three Children.

Ver. 1 *They walked in the midst of the fire, &c.]* No sooner were these three brethren fallen into the midst of the fiery furnace, the flame of which was so furious that it de-

stroyed those who were appointed executioners of this tyrannic decree, but they immediately got on their feet, and by the assistance of an angel, who was visibly present to secure them from the fierceness of the fire, they not only retained the full use of their limbs, but the faculties of

the midst of the fire, said,

3 Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers: thy name is worthy to be praised, and glorified for evermore.

4 For thou art righteous in all the things that thou hast done to us: yea, true are all thy works, thy ways are right, and all thy judgments truth.

5 In all the things which thou hast brought upon us, and upon the holy city of our fathers, *even* Jersaleem, thou hast executed true judgment: for according to truth and judgment didst thou bring all these things upon us, because of our sins.

6 For we have sinned and committed iniquity, departing from thee.

7 In all things have we trespassed, and not obeyed thy commandments, nor kept them, neither done as thou hast commanded us, that it might go well with us.

8 Wherefore all that thou hast brought upon us, and every thing that thou hast done to us, thou hast done in true judgment.

9 And thou didst deliver us into the hands of lawless enemies, most hateful for-fakers of God, and to an unjust king, and the most wicked in all the world.

10 And now we cannot open our mouths, we are become a shame and reproach to thy servants, and to them that worship thee.

11 Yet deliver us not up wholly, for thy name's sake, neither disannul thou thy covenant:

12 And cause not thy mercy to depart from us, for thy beloved Abraham's sake, for thy servant Isaac's sake, and for thy holy Israel's sake;

13 To whom thou hast spoken and promised, That thou wouldest multiply their seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand that lieth upon the sea-shore.

14 For we, O Lord, are become less than any nation, and be kept under this day in all the world because of our sins.

15 Neither is there at this time prince, or prophet, or leader, or burnt-offering, or sacrifice, or oblation, or incense, or place to sacrifice before thee, and to find mercy.

16 Nevertheless, in a contrite heart and an humble spirit let us be accepted.

17 Like as in the burnt-offerings of rams and bullocks, and like as in ten thousands of fat lambs; so let our sacrifice be in thy sight this day, and grant that we may wholly go after thee: for they shall not be confounded that put their trust in thee.

18 And now we follow thee with all our heart, we fear thee, and seek thy face.

19 Put us not to shame: but deal with us after thy loving kindness, and according to the multitude of thy mercies.

20 Deliver us also according to thy marvellous works, and give glory to thy name, O Lord: and let all them that do thy servants hurt be ashamed.

21 And let them be confounded in all their power and might, and let their strength be broken;

22 And let them know that thou art Lord, the only God, and glorious over the whole world.

23 And the king's servants that put them in, ceased not to make the oven hot with rosin, pitch, tow, and small wood;

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24 So

speech and reason, as free and perfect as though they had been quite at large. This they rightly judged was the fittest occasion that possibly could have offered to proclaim the glory of the true God, whom they worshipped, and who now so eminently appeared to defend them from the rage of the flames, and the fury of a bigoted tyrant: therefore, after Azarias had finished a devout supplication to God, finding that the fire had no power to hurt their bodies, they all three joined in a song of praise to the Al-

mighty.—The song is diversified into a great number of particulars, and concludes with calling upon one another to bless and praise the Lord for their wonderful deliverance from the rage of the burning furnace.

21 *In all their power and might.*] Or, by thy power and might.

23 *Rosin.*] Margin, Or naphtha, which is a certain kind of fat and chalky clay. *Plin. lib. ii. c. 105.*



24 So that the flame streamed forth above the furnace, forty and nine cubits.

25 And it passed through, and burnt those Chaldeans it found about the furnace.

26 But the angel of the Lord came down into the oven, together with Azarias and his fellows, and smote the flame of the fire out of the oven.

27 And made the mids of the furnace, as it had been a moist whistling wind, so that the fire touched them not at all, neither hurt nor troubled them.

28 Then the three, as out of one mouth, praised, glorified, and blessed God in the furnace, saying,

29 Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers : and to be praised and exalted above all for ever.

30 And blessed is thy glorious and holy name : and to be praised and exalted above all for ever.

31 Blessed art thou in the temple of thine holy glory : and to be praised and glorified above all for ever.

32 Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths, and sittest upon the cherubims : and to be praised and exalted above all for ever.

33 Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom : and to be praised and glorified above all for ever.

34 Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven : and above all to be praised and glorified for ever.

35 O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

36 O ye heavens, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

37 O ye angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

38 O all ye waters that be above the heaven, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

39 O all ye powers of the Lord, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

40 O ye sun and moon, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

41 O ye stars of heaven, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

42 O every shower and dew, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

43 O all ye winds, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

44 O ye fire and heat ; bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

45 O ye winter and summer, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

46 O ye dews and storms of snow, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

47 O ye nights and days, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

48 O ye light and darkness, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

49 O ye ice and cold, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

50 O ye frost and snow, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

51 O ye lightnings and clouds, bless ye the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

52 O let the earth bless the Lord : praise and exalt him above all for ever.

53 O ye

27 *A moist, &c.*] Margin, Cool.

35 *Exalt him above all.*] Margin, Highly exalt ; and so in the rest.

53 O ye mountains and little hills, bleſs ye the Lord : praife and exalt him above all for ever.

54 O all ye things that grow on the earth, bleſs ye the Lord : praife and exalt him above all for ever.

55 O ye fountains, bleſs ye the Lord : praife and exalt him above all for ever.

56 O ye ſeas and rivers, bleſs ye the Lord : praife and exalt him above all for ever.

57 O ye whales, and all that move in the waters, bleſs ye the Lord : praife and exalt him above all for ever.

58 O all ye fowls of the air, bleſs ye the Lord : praife and exalt him above all for ever.

59 O all ye beaſts and cattle, bleſs ye the Lord : praife and exalt him above all for ever.

60 O ye children of men, bleſs ye the Lord : praife and exalt him above all for ever.

61 O Iſrael, bleſs ye the Lord : praife and exalt him above all for ever.

62 O ye prieſts of the Lord, bleſs ye

the Lord : praife and exalt him above all for ever.

63 O ye ſervants of the Lord, bleſs ye the Lord : praife and exalt him above all for ever.

64 O ye ſpirits and ſouls of the righteous, bleſs ye the Lord : praife and exalt him above all for ever.

65 O ye holy and humble men of heart, bleſs ye the Lord : praife and exalt him above all for ever.

66 O Ananias, Azarias, and Miſael, bleſs ye the Lord : praife and exalt him above all for ever : for he hath delivered us from hell, and ſaved us from the hand of death, and delivered us out of the miſt of the furnace, and burning flame : even out of the miſt of the fire hath he delivered us.

67 O give thanks unto the Lord, becauſe he is gracious : for his mercy endureth for ever.

68 O all ye that worſhip the Lord, bleſs the God of gods, praife him and give him thanks : for his mercy endureth for ever.

58 *Fowls of the air.*] Greek, Of heaven.  
65 *O ye holy, &c.*] Greek, O ye ſaints.

66 *From hell.*] i. e. The grave.



The History of *Susanna*, set apart from the beginning of *Daniel*, because it is not in the Hebrew, as neither the narration of *Bel and the Dragon*.

THE ARGUMENT.

Though the papists allow this book to be of the same authority with the rest of the book of *Daniel*, yet it was never received into the canon of Holy Writ by the Jewish church, nor any of the ancients: Africanus, Eusebius, and Apollinarius, have rejected it; not only as being uncanonical, but also as fabulous. It is extant neither in the Hebrew nor Chaldee language, nor is there any evidence that it ever was so; but it was probably written in Greek by some Hellenistical Jew.

16 Two judges hide themselves in the garden of *Susanna* to have their pleasure of her: 28 which when they could not obtain, they accuse, and cause her to be condemned for adultery: 46 but *Daniel* examineth the matter again, and findeth the two judges false.

THERE dwelt a man in Babylon, called *Joachim*.

2 And he took a wife, whose name was *Susanna*, the daughter of *Chel-*

*cias*, a very fair woman, and one that feared the Lord.

3 Her parents also were righteous, and taught their daughter according to the law of *Moses*.

4 Now *Joachim* was a great rich man, and had a fair garden joining unto his house, and to him resorted the Jews: because he was more honourable than all others.

5 The same year were appointed two of the

NOTES on the History of *Susanna*.

Ver. 1 There dwelt a man in Babylon, called *Joachim*, &c.] In this history of *Susanna*, we have an account of her husband's, and her own family. She dwelt at Babylon,

being carried thither into captivity with her husband. She was a woman of extraordinary beauty, and of as much piety and fear of God. The captive Jews, who were then at Babylon, used to assemble at *Joachim*'s house, for the determination of their affairs; and every year they ap-

the ancients of the people to be judges, such as the Lord spake of, that wickedness came from Babylon from ancient judges, who seemed to govern the people.

6 These kept much at Joacim's house: and all that had any suits in law, came unto them.

7 Now when the people departed away at noon, Susanna went into her husband's garden to walk.

8 And the two elders saw her going in every day, and walking: so that their lust was inflamed toward her.

9 And they perverted their own mind, and turned away their eyes, that they might not look unto heaven, nor remember just judgments.

10 And albeit they both were wounded with her love; yet durst not one shew another his grief.

11 For they were ashamed to declare their lust, that they desired to have to do with her.

12 Yet they watched diligently from day to day to see her.

13 And they said one to the other, Let us now go home: for it is dinner-time.

14 So when they were gone out, they parted the one from the other, and turning back again, they came to the same place, and after they had asked one another the cause, they acknowledged their lust: then appointed they a time both together, when they might find her alone.

15 And it fell out as they watched a fit time, she went in as before, with two maids only, and she was desirous to wash

herself in the garden: for it was hot.

16 And there was no body there save the two elders that had hid themselves, and watched her.

17 Then she said to her maids, Bring me oil and washing-balls, and shut the garden-doors, that I may wash me.

18 And they did as she bad them, and shut the garden doors, and went out themselves at privy doors, to fetch the things that she had commanded them: but they saw not the elders, because they were hid.

19 Now when the maids were gone forth, the two elders rose up, and ran unto her, saying,

20 Behold, the garden-doors are shut, that no man can see us, and we are in love with thee, therefore consent unto us, and lie with us.

21 If thou wilt not, we will bear witness against thee, that a young man was with thee; and therefore thou didst send away thy maids from thee.

22 Then Susanna sighed, and said, I am straitened on every side: for if I do this thing, it is death unto me: and if I do it not, I cannot escape your hands.

23 It is better for me to fall into your hands, and not to do it, than to sin in the sight of the Lord.

24 With that Susanna cried with a loud voice: and the two elders cried out against her.

25 Then ran the one and opened the garden-door.

26 So when the servants of the house heard the cry in the garden, they rushed

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in

pointed two judges, for the decision of such difficulties as might arise with regard to themselves, that they might not be obliged to have recourse to heathens, in order to decide causes among the Israelites.

14 *So when they were gone out.*] The enormity of their intended guilt instigated each to conceal it from the other. They were not afraid, it seems, to perpetrate a crime in the sight of heaven, which they were fearful of owning to the partner of their iniquities; as if the punishment

of mortals was more to be feared than that of God, and an earthly tribunal more awful than an heavenly one.

15 *As before.*] Greek, As yesterday, and the day before.

18 *At privy doors.*] Or, side-doors.

23 *It is better for me to fall into your hands, &c.*] This virtuous woman had a true sense of the power and justice of God, whose anger she dreaded more than death, and considered his favour of more value than all the short lived pleasures the world has to bestow.



in at a privy door, to see what was done unto her.

27 But when the elders had declared their matter, the servants were greatly ashamed; for there was never such a report made of Susanna.

28 And it came to pass the next day, when the people were assembled to her husband Joacim, the two elders came also full of malicious imagination against Susanna to put her to death.

29 And said before the people, Send for Susanna, the daughter of Chelcias, Joacim's wife; and so they sent.

30 So she came with her father and mother, her children, and all her kindred.

31 Now Susanna was a very delicate woman, and beauteous to behold.

32 And these wicked men commanded to uncover her face, (for she was covered) that they might be filled with her beauty.

33 Therefore her friends, and all that saw her, wept.

34 Then the two elders stood up in the mids of the people, and laid their hands upon her head.

35 And she weeping, looked up towards heaven: for her heart trusted in the Lord.

36 And the elders said, As we walked in the garden alone, this woman came in with two maids, and shut the garden-doors, and sent the maids away.

37 Then a young man who there was hid, came unto her, and lay with her.

38 Then we that stood in a corner of the garden, seeing this wickedness, ran unto them.

39 And when we saw them together, the man we could not hold: for he was stronger than we, and opened the door,

and leaped out.

40 But having taken this woman, we asked who the young man was, but she would not tell us; these things do we testify.

41 Then the assembly believed them, as those that were the elders and judges of the people: so they condemned her to death.

42 Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and said, O everlasting God, that knowest the secrets, and knowest all things before they be:

43 Thou knowest that they have borne false witness against me, and behold I must die, whereas I never did such things as these men have maliciously invented against me.

44 And the Lord heard her voice.

45 Therefore when she was lead to be put to death, the Lord raised up the holy spirit of a young youth, whose name was Daniel.

46 Who cried with a loud voice, I am clear from the blood of this woman.

47 Then all the people turned them towards him, and said, What mean these words that thou hast spoken?

48 So he standing in the midst of them, said, Are ye such fools, ye sons of Israel, that without examination, or knowledge of the truth, ye have condemned a daughter of Israel?

49 Return again to the place of judgment: for they have borne false witness against her.

50 Wherefore all the people turned again in haste, and the elders said unto him, Come sit down among us, and shew it us, seeing God hath given thee the honour of an elder.

51 Then said Daniel unto them, Put these two aside one far from another, and I will examine them.

52 So

42 O everlasting God, &c.] Susanna had no other way of vindicating her innocence than by appealing to the most High. She therefore directed her prayers to him that was able to save; to that Being, who is of purer eyes than

to behold iniquity, and who will surely punish the wickedness of the children of men: nor were her prayers in vain; the Lord heard them, and inspired Daniel with wisdom to deliver her.

52 So when they were put asunder one from another, he called one of them and said unto him, O thou that art waxen old in wickedness, now thy sins which thou hast committed afore time, are come to light.

53 For thou hast pronounced false judgment, and hast condemned the innocent, and hast let the guilty go free, albeit the Lord saith, the innocent and righteous shalt thou not slay.

54 Now then, if thou hast seen her, tell me, Under what tree sawest thou them companying together? Who answered, Under a mastick-tree.

55 And Daniel said very well: thou hast lied against thine own head: for even now the angel of God hath received the sentence of God, to cut thee in two.

56 So he put him aside, and commanded to bring the other, and said unto him, O thou seed of Chanaan, and not of Juda, beauty hath deceived thee, and lust hath perverted thine heart.

57 Thus have you dealt with the daughters of Israel, and they for fear companyed with you: but the daughter of Juda would not abide your wickedness.

58 Now therefore tell me, Under what tree didst thou take them companying together? Who answered, Under a holm-tree.

59 Then said Daniel unto him, Well, thou hast also lied against thine own head: for the angel of God waiteth with the sword, to cut thee in two, that he may destroy you.

60 With that all the assembly cried out with a loud voice, and praised God who saveth them that trust in him.

61 And they arose against the two elders (for Daniel had convicted them of false witness by their own mouth).

62 And according to the law of Moses, they did unto them in such sort as they maliciously intended to do to their neighbour: and they put them to death. Thus the innocent blood was saved the same day.

63 Therefore Chelcias and his wife praised God for their daughter Susanna, with Joacim her husband, and all the kindred, because there was no dishonesty found in her.

64 From that day forth was Daniel had in great reputation in the sight of the people.

54 A mastick-tree.] Greek, A lentisk-tree.

58 A holm tree.] Margin, A kind of oak.

62 They put them to death.] These two elders were probably stoned to death, as Susanna was to have been, had her sentence been carried into execution.

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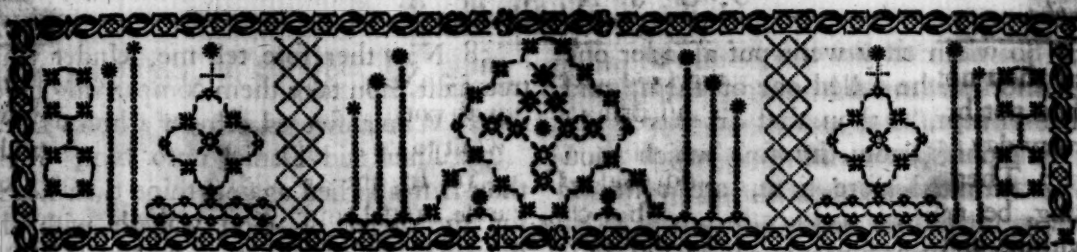
The End of the History of S U S A N N A .

5 MA 56

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## The History of the Destruction of *Bel and the Dragon*, cut off from the End of *DANIEL*.

### THE ARGUMENT.

*This history is wholly fabulous and apocryphal; as will appear by comparing it with the true narrative of Daniel. St. Jerom gives it no better title than that of the fables of Bel and the Dragon.*

19 The fraud of Bel's priests is discovered by Daniel, 27 and the dragon slain, which was worshipped. 33 Daniel is preserved in the lions den. 42 The king doth acknowledge the God of Daniel, and casteth his enemies into the same den.

AND king Astyages was gathered to his fathers, and Cyrus of Persia received his kingdom.

2 And Daniel conversed with the king, and was honoured above all his friends.

3 Now the Babylonians had an idol

called Bel, and there were spent upon him every day twelve great measures of fine flower, and forty sheep, and six vessels of wine.

4 And the king worshipped it, and went daily to adore it: but Daniel worshipped his own God. And the king said unto him, Why dost thou not worship Bel?

5 Who answered and said, Because I may not worship idols made with hands, but the living God, who hath created the heaven and the earth, and hath sovereignty over all flesh.

6 Then said the king unto him, Think-  
est

### Notes on the History of Bel and the Dragon.

Ver. 2 Daniel conversed with the king.] Margin, Or lived with the king.

4 The king worshipped it, &c.] We here see a king so bigotted to an idol, that nothing less than ocular demonstration could convince him of his error.

est thou not that Bel is a living God? feest thou not how much he eateth and drinketh every day?

7 Then Daniel smiled, and said, O king, be not deceived; for this is but clay within, and brass without, and did never eat or drink any thing.

8 So the king was wroth, and called for his priests, and said unto them, If ye tell me not who this is that devoureth these expences, ye shall die.

9 But if ye can certify me that Bel devoureth them, then Daniel shall die: for he hath spoken blasphemy against Bel. And Daniel said unto the king, Let it be according to thy word.

10 Now the priests of Bel were threescore and ten, besides their wives and children, and the king went with Daniel into the temple of Bel.

11 So Bel's priests said, Lo, we go out: but thou, O king, set on the meat, and make ready the wine, and shut the door fast, and seal it with thine own signet.

12 And to morrow when thou comest in, if thou findest not that Bel hath eaten up all, we will suffer death; or else Daniel that speaketh falsely against us.

13 And they little regarded it: for under the table they had made a privy entrance, whereby they entered in continually, and consumed those things.

14 So when they were gone forth, the king set meats before Bel. Now Daniel had commanded his servants to bring ashes, and those they strewed throughout all the temple, in the presence of the king alone: then went they out, and shut the door, and sealed it with the king's signet, and so departed.

15 Now in the night came the priests with their wives and children (as they were wont to do) and did eat and drink up all.

16 In the morning betime the king arose, and Daniel with him.

17 And the king said, Daniel, are the seals whole? And he said, Yea, O king, they be whole.

18 And as soon as he had opened the door, the king looked upon the table, and cried with a loud voice, Great art thou, O Bel, and with thee is no deceit at all.

19 Then laughed Daniel, and held the king, that he should not go in, and said, Behold now the pavement, and mark well whose footsteps are these.

20 And the king said, I see the foot-steps of men, women, and children. And then the king was angry,

21 And took the priests with their wives and children, who shewed him the privy doors where they came in, and consumed such things as were upon the table.

22 Therefore the king slew them, and delivered Bel into Daniel's power, who destroyed him and his temple.

23 And in that same place there was a great dragon, which they of Babylon worshipped.

24 And the king said unto Daniel, Wilt thou also say, that this is of brass? so he liveth, he eateth and drinketh, thou canst not say that he is no living god: therefore worship him.

25 Then said Daniel unto the king, I will worship the Lord my God, for he is the living God.

26 But give me leave, O king, and I shall slay this dragon without sword or staff. The king said, I give thee leave.

3. N.

27 Then

11 *Lo, we go out, &c.*] See the crafty practices of these priests, who made a property of the king's credulity, and converted his error to their advantage. They imagined their practices would never be detected, and so boldly put

the affair to an issue; but found that designs concluded under the impenetrable mantle of the night, are often exposed to the eyes of the whole world.



27 Then Daniel took pitch, and fat, and hair, and did seethe them together, and made lumps thereof: this he put in the dragon's mouth, and so the dragon burst in sunder: and Daniel said, Lo, these are the gods you worship.

28 When they of Babylon heard that, they took great indignation, and conspired against the king, saying, The king is become a Jew, and he hath destroyed Bel, he hath slain the dragon, and put the priests to death.

29 So they came to the king, and said, Deliver us Daniel, or else we will destroy thee and thine house.

30 Now when the king saw that they pressed him fore; being constrained, he delivered Daniel unto them.

31 Who cast him into the lions den: where he was six days.

32 And in the den there were seven lions, and they had given them every day two carcases, and two sheep: which then were not given to them, to the intent they might devour Daniel.

33 Now there was in Jewry a prophet called Habbacuc, who had made pottage, and had broken bread in a bowl: and was going into the field for to bring it to the reapers.

34 But the angel of the Lord said unto Habbacuc, Go carry the dinner that thou

hast into Babylon unto Daniel, who is in the lions den.

35 And Habbacuc said, Lord, I never saw Babylon, neither do I know where the den is.

36 Then the angel of the Lord took him by the crown, and bare him by the hair of his head, and through the vehemence of his spirit, set him in Babylon over the den.

37 And Habbacuc cried, saying, O Daniel, Daniel, take the dinner which God hath sent thee.

38 And Daniel said, Thou hast remembered me, O God: neither hast thou forsaken them that seek thee, and love thee.

39 So Daniel arose and did eat: and the angel of the Lord set Habbacuc in his own place again immediately.

40 Upon the seventh day the king went to bewail Daniel: and when he came to the den, he looked in, and behold, Daniel was sitting.

41 Then cried the king with a loud voice, saying, Great art thou, O Lord God of Daniel, and there is none other besides thee.

42 And he drew him out, and cast those that were the cause of his destruction into the den: and they were devoured in a moment before his face.

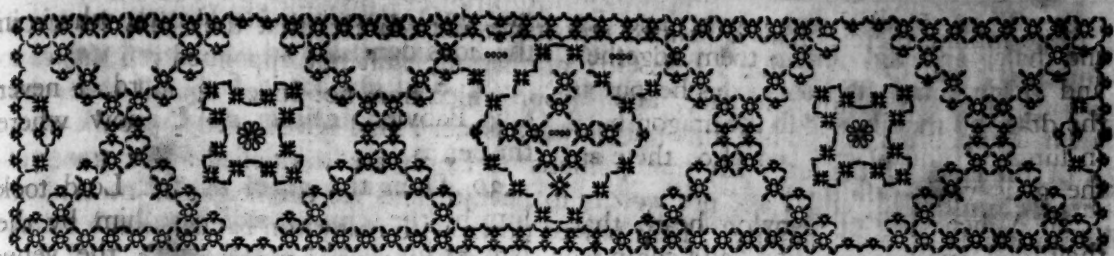
28 *When they of Babylon heard that, &c.*] Though the design of Daniel was consistent and praise-worthy, both with regard to reason and religion, as his actions tended only to expose the wicked devices of these priests; yet the effect of bigotry and superstition was great: the people were so enraged at the destruction of their gods, that

nothing would satisfy them, but the blood of him who had removed the veil of falsehood, and proved beyond the possibility of contradiction, that they had been imposed upon.

32 *Two carcases.*] Margin, Two slaves.

33 *Made pottage.*] Or, food.

The End of BEL and the DRAGON.



The PRAYER of MANASSES king of Juda, when  
he was holden captive in Babylon.

The ARGUMENT.

*This prayer, tho' truly pious, and full of divine sentiments, seems more likely to be the form of a prayer composed for the use of some great prince, who, conscious of his own wickedness, repented of his sins, and set himself to seek the Lord with his whole heart, as probably Manasses did, when he was carried prisoner to Babylon, than a prayer actually made by himself. Though there is an expression in 2 Chron. xxxiii. 19. which shows, at least, that there was such a prayer of his composing, kept upon record; and it is scarce possible to pen one more expressive of his misery and repentance, than this before us.*

**O** Lord, Almighty God of our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and of their righteous seed; who hast made heaven and earth, with all the ornament thereof; who hast bound the sea by the word of thy commandment; who hast shut up the deep, and sealed it by thy terrible and glorious name; whom all men fear, and tremble before thy power; for the majesty of thy glory cannot be borne, and thine angry threatening towards sinners is importable; but thy merciful promise is unmeasurable and unsearchable; for thou art the most high Lord, of great compassion, long-suffering, very merciful, and repentest of the evils of men. Thou, O Lord, according to thy great goodness hast promised repentance and forgiveness to them that have sinned against thee: and  
of

Remarks on the Prayer of Manasses.

*O Lord, Almighty God of our fathers, &c.]* The author begins his prayer very properly with an address to the God of the Jewish patriarchs: he then raises his thoughts to contemplate the omnipotence of God in the creation and formation of the universe; and seems astonished at the

wonderful contrivance and beautiful disposition of all his works: but when he considers the majesty and glory of Jehovah, and the terrors of his justice to sinners, he is struck with wonder and amazement; till he recollects the infinite goodness of the Almighty, the thought of which banishes despair, and gives him hopes of mercy and salvation.



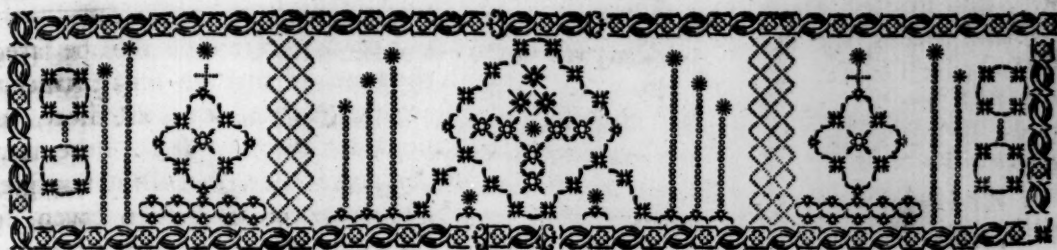
of thine infinite mercies hast appointed repentance unto sinners that they may be saved. Thou therefore, O Lord, that art the God of the just, hast not appointed repentance to the just, as to Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, which have not sinned against thee; but thou hast appointed repentance unto me that am a sinner: for I have sinned above the number of the sands of the sea. My transgressions, O Lord, are multiplied: My transgressions are multiplied, and I am not worthy to behold, and see the height of heaven, for the multitude of mine iniquity. I am bowed down with many iron bands, that I cannot lift up mine head, \* neither have any release: for I have provoked thy wrath, and done evil before thee, I did not thy will, neither kept I thy commandments: I have set up abominations, and have multiplied offences. Now therefore I bow the knee of mine heart, beseeching thee of grace: I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I acknowledge mine iniquities: wherefore I humbly beseech thee forgive me, O Lord, forgive me, and destroy me not with mine iniquities. Be not angry with me for ever, by reserving evil for me; neither condemn me into the lower parts of the earth. For thou art the God, *even* the God of them that repent: and in me thou wilt shew all thy goodness: for thou wilt save me that am unworthy, according to thy great mercy. Therefore I will praise thee for ever all the days of my life: for all the powers of the heavens do praise thee, and thine is the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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\* *Neither have any release.*] Or, as the margin, Neither take my breath.

The End of the Prayer of MANASSES.

5 MA 56



# The First Book of the M A C C A B E E S.

## The ARGUMENT.

*Dr. Prideaux observes, that this first book of the Maccabees was originally written in the Chaldee language, or that spoken by the Jews after their return from Babylon, in which language it was extant in St. Jerom's time. The author is not certainly known; but the most probable opinion is, that it was composed in the time of John Hyrcanus, when the wars of the Maccabees were over; either by Hyrcanus himself, who was prince, and high-priest of the Jews, near thirty years, and began his government at the time where this history ends, or by some others employed by him. From the Chaldee it was translated into Greek, and from that into Latin: our version is from the Greek. This first book is a very accurate and excellent history, and comes nearest of any extant to the stile and manner of the sacred historians. It contains the history of forty years, from the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes, to the death of Simon the high-priest, i. e. from the years of the world 3829, to 3869, namely, 131 years before Christ. This book follows the Jewish æra: the second book that of Alexandria, which begins six months after.*

### C H A P. I.

14 *Antiochus gave leave to set up the fashions of the Gentiles in Jerusalem, 22 and spoiled it, and the temple in it, 57 and set up therein the abomination of desolation,*

63 *and slew those that did circumcise their children.*

**A**ND it happened, after that Alexander son of Philip the Macedonian, who came out of the land of Chet-  
3 O tiim,

### NOTES on Chap. I.

Ver. 1 *The land of Chetitim* ] Or, Chethiim.

*Over Greece.]* By Greece is here meant, the kingdoms of Syria and Egypt, so called by the Jews at that time; and not that properly called Greece in the Latin and



tiim, had smitten Darius king of the Persians and Medes, that he reigned in his stead, the first over Greece,

2 And made many wars, and wan many strong holds, and slew the kings of the earth,

3 And went through to the ends of the earth, and took spoils of many nations, inso much that the earth was quiet before him; whereupon he was exalted, and his heart was lifted up.

4 And he gathered a mighty strong host, and ruled over countries and nations, and kings, who became tributaries unto him.

5 And after these things he fell sick, and perceived that he should die.

6 Wherefore he called his servants, such as were honourable, and had been brought up with him from his youth, and parted his kingdom among them, while he was yet alive.

7 So Alexander reigned twelve years, and then died.

8 And his servants bare rule every one in his place.

9 And after his death, they all put crowns upon themselves; so did their sons after them many years: and evils were multiplied in the earth.

10 And there came out of them a wicked root, Antiochus surnamed Epiphanes, son of Antiochus the king, who had been an hostage at Rome, and he reigned in the hundred and thirty and seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks.

11 In those days went there out of Is-

rael, wicked men, who persuaded many, saying, Let us go, and make a covenant with the heathen that are round about us: for since we departed from them, we have had much sorrow.

12 So this device pleased them well.

13 Then certain of the people were forward herein, that they went to the king, who gave them licence to do after the ordinances of the heathen.

14 Whereupon they built a place of exercise at Jerusalem, according to the customs of the heathen:

15 And made themselves uncircumcised, and forsook the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the heathen, and were sold to do mischief.

16 Now when the kingdom was established before Antiochus, he thought to reign over Egypt, that he might have the dominion of two realms.

17 Wherefore he entered into Egypt with a great multitude, with chariots, and elephants, and horsemen, and a great navy.

18 And made war against Ptolemee king of Egypt: but Ptolemee was afraid of him, and fled; and many were wounded to death.

19 Thus they got the strong cities in the land of Egypt, and he took the spoils thereof.

20 And after that Antiochus had smitten Egypt, he returned again in the hundred forty and third year, and went up against Israel and Jerusalem with a great multitude.

21 And

Greek writers. By Chetiiim is meant Macedonia: and the smiting here mentioned relates to that complete victory which Alexander gained over Darius at Arbela.

3 *He was exalted, and his heart was lifted up.*] Margin, His heart was exalted and lifted up.

4 *And kings, who became tributaries unto him.*] Or, kingdoms which became, &c.

5 *That he should die.*] Greek, That he dieth.

6 *Parted his kingdom among them.*] By this is meant, his

leaving the care and management of his kingdom, in trust for his son, to his principal officers.

10 *In the hundred and thirty and seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks.*] i. e. Of their rule over Syria, which began with Seleucus.

11 *We have had much sorrow.*] Greek, Many evils have found us.

14 *They built a place of exercise.*] Margin, Set up an open school at Jerusalem.

21 And entered proudly into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof,

22 And the table of the shew-bread, and the pouring vessels, and the vials, and the censers of gold, and the vail, and the crowns, and the golden ornaments that were before the temple, all which he pulled off.

23 He took also the silver and the gold, and the precious vessels: also he took the hidden treasures which he found.

24 And when he had taken all away, he went into his own land, having made a great massacre, and spoken very proudly.

25 Therefore there was great mourning in Israel, in every place where they were;

26 So that the princes and elders mourned, the virgins and young men were made feeble, and the beauty of women was changed.

27 Every bridegroom took up lamentation, and she that sat in the marriage chamber was in heaviness.

28 The land also was moved for the inhabitants thereof, and all the house of Jacob was covered with confusion.

29 And after two years fully expired, the king sent his chief collector of tribute unto the cities of Juda, who came unto Jerusalem with a great multitude,

30 And spake peaceable words unto them, but *all was* deceit: for when they had given him credence, he fell suddenly upon the city, and smote it very sore, and destroyed much people of Israel.

31 And when he had taken the spoils of the city, he set it on fire, and pulled

down the houses and walls thereof on every side.

32 But the women and children took they captive, and possessed the cattle.

33 Then builded they the city of David with a great and strong wall, *and* with mighty towers, and made it a strong hold for them.

34 And they put therein a sinful nation, wicked men, and *fortified themselves* therein.

35 They stored it also with armour and victuals, and when they had gathered together the spoils of Jerusalem, they laid them up there, and so they became a fore snare.

36 For it was a place to lie in wait against the sanctuary, and an evil adversary to Israel.

37 Thus they shed innocent blood on every side of the sanctuary, and defiled it:

38 Inasmuch that the inhabitants of Jerusalem fled because of them: whereupon *the city* was made an habitation of strangers, and became strange to those that were born in her, and her own children left her.

39 Her sanctuary was laid waste like a wilderness, her feasts were turned into mourning, her sabbaths into reproach, her honour into contempt.

40 As had been her glory, so was her dishonour increased, and her excellency was turned into mourning.

41 Moreover, king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people,

42 And every one should leave his laws: so all the heathen agreed according to the commandment of the king.

43 Yea,

21 *All which he pulled off.*] Margin, He pill'd all things.

23 *The precious vessels.*] Greek, Desirable.

34 *They put therein a sinful nation, &c.*] This seems to signify, that to the garrison which Antiochus placed there, many profligate and impious Jews joined themselves.

36 *It was a place to lie in wait against the sanctuary.*] i. e. To lay ambushes for such as frequented the sanctuary.

39 *Her feasts were turned into mourning, her sabbaths, &c.*] They were not kept holy, but as common days; and all secular business transacted upon them.



43 Yea, many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the sabbath.

44 For the king had sent letters by messengers unto Jerusalem, and the cities of Juda, that they should follow the strange laws of the land.

45 And forbid burnt-offerings, and sacrifice, and drink-offerings in the temple; and that they should profane the sabbaths, and festival days.

46 And pollute the sanctuary and holy people:

47 Set up altars, and groves, and chapels of idols, and sacrifice swine's flesh, and unclean beasts:

48 That they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness, and profanation:

49 To the end they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances.

50 And whosoever would not do according to the commandment of the king, *he said*, he should die.

51 In the self-same manner wrote he to his whole kingdom, and appointed overseers over all the people, commanding the cities of Juda to sacrifice, city by city.

52 Then many of the people were gathered unto them, to wit, every one that forsook the law, and so they committed evils in the land.

53 And drove the Israelites into secret

places, even wheresoever they could flee for succour.

54 Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and fifth year they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and builded idol-altars throughout the cities of Juda on every side;

55 And burnt incense at the doors of their houses, and in the streets.

56 And when they had rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, they burnt them with fire.

57 And wheresoever was found with any the book of the testament, or if any consented to the law, the king's commandment was that they should put him to death.

58 Thus did they by their authority, unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities.

59 Now the five and twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the idol-altar, which was upon the altar of God.

60 At which time according to the commandment they put to death certain women, that had caused their children to be circumcised.

61 And they hanged the infants about their necks, and rifled their houses, and slew them that had circumcised them.

62 Howbeit, many in Israel were fully resolved and confirmed in themselves, not to eat any unclean thing.

63 Wherefore they chose rather to die, that

54 *The strange laws of the land*] Margin, The laws and rites of the strangers in the land, namely, the Macedonians, who were now in possession of it.

45 *Forbid burnt-offerings and sacrifice, &c.*] By this edict the daily sacrifice at the temple was stopped for the space of three years, according to Josephus; and hereby was fulfilled Daniel's prophecy, ch. xi. ver. 31.

53 *Drove the Israelites into secret places, &c.*] Margin, They made Israel hide themselves in holes in every place of succour.

54 *They set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar.*] The Jews were wont to call an idol an abomination, and

on account of its being set up, not only the temple, but the city itself, was deserted by all the pious.

57 *The king's commandment, &c.*] Greek, The king's commandment put him to death.

59 *They did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the altar of God*] They erected an altar to the idol upon the altar of God. This they did, probably, that they might put it out of the power of the pious Jews to make any offerings upon that altar; and the Jewish law did not allow of their making any altar elsewhere.

60 *Had caused their children to be circumcised.*] Greek, That had circumcised their children. 2

that they might not be defiled with meats, and that they might not profane the holy covenant : so then they died.

64 And there was very great wrath upon Israel.

### CHAP. II.

6 *Mattathias lamenteth the case of Jerusalem :*

24 *He slayeth a Jew that did sacrifice to idols in his presence, and the king's messenger also :* 34 *He and his are assailed on the sabbath, and make no resistance :* 50 *He dieth, and instructeth his sons :* 66 *and maketh their brother Judas Maccabeus general.*

**I**N those days arose Mattathias the son of John, the son of Simeon, a priest of the sons of Joarib, from Jerusalem, and dwelt in Modin.

2 And he had five sons, Joannan called Caddis :

3 Simon called Thaffi :

4 Judas, who was called Maccabeus :

5 Eleazar, called Avaran, and Jonathan, whose surname was Apphus.

6 And when he saw the blasphemies that were committed in Juda and Jerusalem,

7 He said, Wo is me, wherefore was I born to see this misery of my people, and of the holy city, and to dwell there when it was delivered into the hand of the enemy, and the sanctuary into the hand of strangers.

8 Her temple is become as a man without glory.

9 Her glorious vessels are carried away into captivity, her infants are slain in the

streets, her young men with the sword of the enemy.

10 What nation hath not had a part in her kingdom, and gotten of her spoils ?

11 All her ornaments are taken away, of a free-woman she is become a bond-slave.

12 And behold, our sanctuary, even our beauty and our glory, is laid waste, and the Gentiles have profaned it.

13 To what end therefore shall we live any longer ?

14 Then Mattathias and his sons rent their clothes, and put on sackcloth, and mourned very fore.

15 In the mean while the king's officers, such as compelled the people to revolt, came into the city Modin to make them sacrifice.

16 And when many of Israel came unto them, Mattathias also and his sons came together.

17 Then answered the king's officers, and said to Mattathias on this wise, Thou art a ruler, and an honourable and great man in this city, and strengthened with sons and brethren.

18 Now therefore come thou first, and fulfil the king's commandment, like as all the heathen have done, yea, and the men of Juda also, and such as remain at Jerusalem : so shalt thou and thy house be in the number of the king's friends, and thou and thy children shall be honoured with silver and gold, and many rewards.

19 Then Mattathias answered and spake with a loud voice, Though all the nations  
3 P. that

### NOTES ON CHAP. II.

Ver. 1 *In those days arose Mattathias, &c.*] Margin, Or, Mattathias, the son of John, &c. arose from Jerusalem, or out of Jerusalem.

2 *Called.*] Or, Who was called ; and so afterward in the rest.

*Caddis.*] Or, Gaddes.

5 *Avaran.*] Avaron, or Aharon.

2

6 *When he saw the blasphemies that were committed, &c.*] By blasphemies is here meant, not merely blasphemous speeches, but impious deeds.

11 *Of a free-woman she is become a bond-slave.*] Judea retained its freedom so far under the Macedonians, by the favour of Alexander the Great, as to live according to its own laws and religious ceremonies, but was reduced quite to slavery under Antiochus.

12 *Our sanctuary.*] Or, holy things.



that are under the king's dominion obey him, and fall away every one from the religion of their fathers, and give consent to his commandments.

20 Yet will I and my sons and my brethren walk in the covenant of our fathers.

21 God forbid that we should forsake the law and the ordinances.

22 We will not hearken to the king's words, to go from our religion, either on the right hand, or the left.

23 Now when he had left speaking these words, there came one of the Jews in the fight of all, to sacrifice on the altar which was at Modin, according to the king's commandment.

24 Which thing when Mattathias saw, he was inflamed with zeal, and his reins trembled, neither could he forbear to shew his anger according to judgment: wherefore he ran, and slew him upon the altar.

25 Also the king's commissioner, who compelled men to sacrifice, he killed at that time, and the altar he pulled down.

26 Thus dealt he zealously for the law of God, like as Phinees did unto Zambry the son of Salom.

27 And Mattathias cried throughout the city, with a loud voice, saying, Whosoever is zealous of the law, and maintaineth the covenant, let him follow me.

28 So he and his sons fled into the mountains, and left all that ever they had in the city.

29 Then many that sought after justice and judgment, went down into the wilderness, to dwell there:

30 Both they, and their children, and their wives, and their cattle, because afflictions increased fore upon them.

31 Now when it was told the king's servants, and the host that was at Jerusalem, in the city of David, that certain men, who had broken the king's commandment, were gone down into the secret places in the wilderness,

32 They pursued after them a great number, and having overtaken them, they camped against them, and made war against them on the sabbath-day.

33 And they said unto them, Let that which you have done hitherto, suffice; come forth, and do according to the commandment of the king, and you shall live.

34 But they said, We will not come forth, neither will we do the king's commandment, to prophane the sabbath-day.

35 So then they gave them the battle with all speed.

36 Howbeit, they answered them not, neither cast they a stone at them, nor stopped the places where they lay hid;

37 But said, Let us die all in our innocency: heaven and earth shall testify for us, that you put us to death wrongfully.

38 So they rose up against them in battle on the sabbath, and they slew them with their wives and children, and their cattle, to the number of a thousand people.

39 Now When Mattathias and his friends understood hereof, they mourned for them right fore.

40 And one of them said to another, If we all do as our brethren have done, and fight not for our lives and laws against the heathen, they will now quickly root us out of the earth.

41 At that time therefore they decreed, saying, Whosoever shall come to make battle

29 *Dwell there.*] Greek, Sit, or abide.

30 *Afflictions increased fore upon them.*] Greek, Evils were multiplied upon them.

34 *Neither will we do the king's commandment, to prophane*

*the sabbath-day.*] It was one of Antiochus's commandments to work on the sabbath-day.

37 *In our innocency.*] Greek, Simplicity.

38 *People.*] Greek, Souls of men.

battle with us on the sabbath day, we will fight against him, neither will we die all as our brethren that were murdered in the secret places.

42 Then came there unto him a company of Assideans, who were mighty men of Israel, even all such as were voluntarily devoted unto the law.

43 Also all they that fled for persecution, joined themselves unto them, and were a stay unto them.

44 So they joined their forces, and smote sinful men in their anger, and wicked men in their wrath: but the rest fled to the heathen for succour.

45 Then Mattathias and his friends went round about, and pulled down the altars.

46 And what children soever they found within the coast of Israel uncircumcised, those they circumcised valiantly.

47 They pursued also after the proud men, and the work prospered in their hand.

48 So they recovered the law out of the hand of the Gentiles, and out of the hand of kings, neither suffered they the sinner to triumph.

49 Now when the time drew near that Mattathias should die, he said unto his sons, Now hath pride and rebuke gotten strength, and the time of destruction, and the wrath of indignation.

50 Now therefore, my sons, be ye zealous for the law, and give your lives for

the covenant of your fathers.

51 Call to remembrance what acts our fathers did in their time, so shall ye receive great honour, and an everlasting name.

52 Was not Abraham found faithful in tentation, and it was imputed unto him, for righteousness.

53 Joseph in the time of his distress, kept the commandment, and was made lord of Egypt.

54 Phinees our father, in being zealous and fervent, obtained the covenant of an everlasting priesthood.

55 Jesus for fulfilling the word was made a judge in Israel.

56 Caleb for bearing witness before the congregation, received the heritage of the land.

57 David for being merciful, possessed the throne of an everlasting kingdom.

58 Elias for being zealous and fervent for the law, was taken up into heaven.

59 Ananias, Azarias, and Misael, by believing were saved out of the flame.

60 Daniel for his innocency was delivered from the mouth of lions.

61 And thus consider ye throughout all ages, that none that put their trust in him, shall be overcome.

62 Fear not then the words of a sinful man: for his glory shall be dung and worms.

63 To day he shall be lifted up, and to morrow he shall not be found, because he is

42 *A company of Assideans.*] The Assideans seem to have been a sect who were not only strict in the observance of the divine laws in general, but obliged themselves by particular ones, or did more than the law required: the meaning of such as were voluntarily devoted unto the law seems to be, that they took up arms in the defence of their religion; tho' the law laid no obligation upon them to do so.

46 *Valiantly.*] Margin, By force.

48 *They recovered the law out of the hand of the Gentiles, &c.*] By this is meant, their standing up in defence of it, and preventing such profanation as the Gentiles would have made of it.

*Neither suffered they the sinner to triumph.*] Greek, Gave they the horn to the sinner.

55 *Jesus.*] i. e. Joshua.

57 *David, for being merciful, possessed the throne, &c.*] David's mercifulness to his enemy Saul, when he had him in his power, and also to Shimei, who had used him so ill in his distresses, was very signal; and towards his people in general he was very tender hearted: for this and his other virtues, he obtained a grant of the kingdom to his posterity for a very long possession.

59 *Ananias, Azarias, and Misael.*] The same as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.



is returned into his dust, and his thought is come to nothing.

64 Wherefore, ye my sons, be valiant, and shew yourselves men in the behalf of the law, for by it shall you obtain glory.

65 And behold, I know that your brother Simon is a man of counsel, give ear unto him alway, he shall be a father unto you.

66 As for Judas Maccabeus he hath been mighty and strong, even from his youth up: let him be your captain, and fight the battle of the people.

67 Take also unto you, all those that observe the law, and avenge ye the wrong of your people.

68 Recompenſe fully the heathen, and take heed to the commandments of the law.

69 So he blessed them, and was gathered to his fathers.

70 And he died in the hundred forty and sixth year, and his sons buried him in the sepulchres of his fathers, at Modin, and all Israel made great lamentation for him.

#### C H A P. III.

*1 The valour and fame of Judas Maccabeus. 10 He overthroweth the forces of Samaria and Syria. 27 Antiochus sendeth a great power against him: 44 He and his fall to fasting and prayer, 58 and are encouraged.*

**T**Hen his son Judas, called Maccabeus, rose up in his stead.

2 And all his brethen helped him, and so did all they that held with his father, and they fought with cheerfulness the battle of Israel.

3 So he gat his people great honour,

and put on a breast-plate as a giant, and girt his warlike harness about him, and he made battles, protecting the host with his sword.

4 In his acts he was like a lion, and like a lion's whelp roaring for his prey.

5 For he pursued the wicked, and fought them out, and burnt up those that vexed his people.

6 Wherefore the wicked shrunk for fear of him, and all the workers of iniquity were troubled, because salvation prospered in his hand.

7 He grieved also many kings, and made Jacob glad with his acts, and his memorial is blessed for ever.

8 Moreover he went through the cities of Juda, destroying the ungodly out of them, and turning away wrath from Israel:

9 So that he was renowned unto the utmost part of the earth, and he received unto him such as were ready to perish.

10 Then Apollonius gathered the Gentiles together, and a great host out of Samaria, to fight against Israel.

11 Which thing when Judas perceived, he went forth to meet him, and so he smote him, and slew him: many also fell down slain, but the rest fled.

12 Wherefore Judas took their spoils, and Apollonius sword also, and therewith he fought all his life long.

13 Now when Seron, a prince of the army of Syria, heard say that Judas had gathered unto him a multitude and company of the faithful to go out with him to war;

14 He said, I will get me a name and honour in the kingdom, for I will go fight with

66 *And fight the battle, &c.*] Margin, Fight ye the battle of the people.

#### NOTES on Chap. III.

Ver. 7 *He grieved also many kings, &c.*] By kings here

are to be understood only prefects over different provinces: for there was only one king, called Antiochus, who had any concern in this matter.

9 *He received unto him.*] Greek, He gathered together.

with Judas, and them that are with him, who despise the king's commandment.

15 So he made him ready to go up, and there went with him a mighty host of the ungodly to help him, and to be avenged of the children of Israel.

16 And when he came near to the going up of Bethoron, Judas went forth to meet him with a small company.

17 Who when they saw the host coming to meet them, said unto Judas, How shall we be able, being so few, to fight against so great a multitude and so strong, seeing we are ready to faint with fasting all this day?

18 Unto whom Judas answered, It is no hard matter for many to be shut up in the hands of a few; and with *the God of heaven* it is all one to deliver with a great multitude, or a small company.

19 For the victory of battle standeth not in the multitude of an host, but strength cometh from heaven.

20 They come against us in much pride and iniquity to destroy us, and our wives and children, and to spoil us.

21 But we fight for our lives and our laws.

22 Wherefore the Lord himself will overthrow them before our face: and as for you, be ye not afraid of them.

23 Now as soon as he had left off speaking, he leapt suddenly upon them, and so Seron and his host was overthrown before him.

24 And they pursued them from the going down of Bethoron, unto the plain, where were slain about eight hundred men of them, and the residue fled into the land of the Philistines.

25 Then began the fear of Judas and his brethren, and an exceeding great dread to fall upon the nations round about them.

26 Inasmuch as his fame came unto the king, and all nations talked of the battles of Judas.

27 Now when king Antiochus heard these things, he was full of indignation: wherefore he sent and gathered together all the forces of his realm, *even* a very strong army.

28 He opened also his treasure, and gave his soldiers pay for a year, commanding them to be ready, whensoever he should need them.

29 Nevertheless, when he saw that the money of his treasures failed, and that the tributes in the country were small, because of the dissension and plague which he had brought upon the land, in taking away the laws which had been of old time;

30 He feared that he should not be able to bear the charges any longer, nor to have such gifts to give so liberally, as he did before: for he had abounded above the kings that were before him.

31 Wherefore being greatly perplexed in his mind, he determined to go into Persia, there to take the tributes of the countries, and to gather much money.

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32 So

20 *They come against us.*] Or, unto us.

—*In much pride.*] Greek, In multitude of pride or envy and iniquity.

24 *From the going down.*] Greek, In the going down.

28 *Whensoever he should need them.*] Greek, At every need.

29 *When he saw that the money of his treasures failed, &c.*] The great tribute which Antiochus might have drawn from Judea, had he left the inhabitants to the quiet possession of their laws and privileges in their own country, dwindled to nothing upon his depriving them of these by violence and persecution; and so forcing them to quit

their lands whence the king's revenues were to arise.

*That the tributes in the country were small.*] Greek, That the collectors of the tribute in the country were few.

*In taking away the laws, &c.*] Or, for the taking away of the laws.

30 *That he should not be able, &c.*] Greek, That he should not have.

*For he had abounded above the kings that were before him.*] A profuse liberality is one of the characters by which the prophet Daniel, ch. xi. ver. 24. has described the great oppressor of the Jewish nation: so that every characteristic



32 So he left Lyfias, a noble man, and one of the blood royal, to oversee the affairs of the king, from the river Euphrates, unto the borders of Egypt.

33 And to bring up his son Antiochus, until he came again.

34 Moreover he delivered unto him the half of his forces, and the elephants, and gave him charge of all things that he would have done, as also concerning them that dwelt in Juda and Jerusalem :

35 *To wit*, that he should send an army against them, to destroy and root out the strength of Israel, and the remnant of Jerusalem, and to take away their memorial from that place ;

36 And that he should place strangers in all their quarters, and divide their land by lot.

37 So the king took the half of the forces that remained, and departed from Antioch his royal city, the hundred forty and seventh year ; and having passed the river Euphrates, he went through the high countries.

38 Then Lyfias chose Ptolemee the son of Dorymenes, and Nicanor, and Gorgias, mighty men of the king's friends :

39 And with them he sent forty thousand *footmen*, and seven thousand horsemen, to go into the land of Juda, and to destroy it, as the king commanded.

40 So they went forth with all their power, and came and pitched by Emmaus, in the plain country.

41 And the merchants of the country hearing the fame of them, took silver and

gold, very much, with servants, and came into the camp to buy the children of Israel for slaves : a power also of Syria, and of the land of the Philistines, joined themselves unto them.

42 Now when Judas and his brethren saw that miseries were multiplied, and that the forces did encamp themselves in their borders (for they knew how the king had given commandment to destroy the people and utterly abolish them)

43 They said one to another, Let us restore the decayed estate of our people, and let us fight for our people, and the sanctuary.

44 Then was the congregation gathered together, that they might be ready for battle, and that they might pray, and ask mercy and compassion.

45 Now Jerusalem lay void as a wilderness, there was none of her children that went in or out : the sanctuary also was trodden down, and aliens kept the strong hold : the heathen had their habitation in that place, and joy was taken from Jacob, and the pipe with the harp ceased.

46 Wherefore the Israelites assembled themselves together, and came to Maspha, over against Jerusalem ; for in Maspha was the place where they prayed aforetime in Israel.

47 Then they fasted that day, and put on sackcloth, and cast ashes upon their heads, and rent their clothes :

48 And laid open the book of the law, wherein the heathen had sought to paint the likeness of their images.

49 They

whereby that prophet foretold this oppressor is applicable to Antiochus.

37 *His royal city.*] Greek, A city of his kingdom.

41 *With servants.*] Margin, Or, fetters.

*Of the Philistines.*] Or, of strangers.

46 *In Maspha was the place where they prayed aforetime in Israel.*] Or, Mitzpa.—As they could not repair to the

temple on account of the enemy, they repaired to a place which had been aforetime used for the solemn invocation of God's name, according to Judges xx. 1. and 1 Sam. vii. 5.

48 *Laid open the book of the law, wherein the heathen had sought to paint the likeness of their images.*] Margin, " For the which the heathen had made diligent searches that they

49 They brought also the priests garments, and the first-fruits, and the tithes: and the Nazarites they stirred up, who had accomplished their days.

50 Then cried they with a loud voice toward heaven, saying, What shall we do with these, and whither shall we carry them away.

51 For thy sanctuary is trodden down and profaned, and thy priests are in heaviness, and brought low.

52 And lo, the heathen are assembled together against us to destroy us: what things they imagine against us, thou knowest.

53 How shall we be able to stand against them, except thou, O God, be our help?

54 Then sounded they with trumpets, and cried with a loud voice.

55 And after this, Judas ordained captains over the people, *even* captains over thousands, and over hundreds, and over fifties, and over tens.

56 But as for such as were building houses, or had betrothed wives, or were planting vineyards, or were fearful, those he commanded that they should return every man to his own house, according to the law.

57 So the camp removed, and pitched upon the south side of Emmaus.

58 And Judas said, Arm yourselves, and be valiant men, and see that ye be in readiness against the morning, that ye may fight with these nations that are assembled together against us, to destroy us and our sanctuary.

79 For it is better for us to die in battle, than to behold the calamities of our people, and our sanctuary.

60 Nevertheless as the will of God is in heaven, so let him do.

#### C H A P. IV.

6 Judas defeateth the plot, 14 and forces of Gorgias, 23 and spoileth their tents, 34 and overthroweth Lysias: 45 He pulleth down the altar which the heathen had profaned, and setteth up a new one: 60 and maketh a wall about Zion.

**T**hen took Gorgias, five thousand footmen, and a thousand of the best horesemen, and removed out of the camp by night;

2 To the end he might rush in upon the camp of the Jews, and smite them suddenly. And the men of the fortress were his guides.

3 Now when Judas heard thereof, he himself removed, and the valiant men with him, that he might smite the king's army which was at Emmaus,

4 While as yet the forces were dispersed from the camp.

5 In the mean season came Gorgias by night into the camp of Judas: and when he found no man there, he sought them in the mountains: for said he, These fellows flee from us.

6 But as soon as it was day, Judas shewed himself in the plain with three thousand men, who nevertheless had neither armour, nor swords to their minds.

7 And they saw the camp of the heathen,

might paint therein the likeness of their idols." The Macedonians sought to paint the likeness of their idols in the book of the law, that they might not only render it useless to the Jews, but grieve them sore, by seeing the sacred book profaned by pictures of idols. This seems to have been the book which had been used in the temple, and brought from thence, when they fled out of Jerusalem.

50 *What shall we do with these, &c.*] The Nazarites, according to the law, were, when their vow was fulfilled,

to shew themselves in the temple, and offer a sacrifice there, according to the ordinance of the law, and so to be released from their vow: but the enemy being in possession of the temple, they could not do this: and therefore, in their invocation to God, they said, What shall we do with these?

#### NOTES ON CHAP. IV.

Ver. 6. *Armour.*] Margin, Target.

7 *Well harness'd.*] i. e. Completely armed.



then, that it was strong, and well harnessed, and compassed round about with horsemen: and these were expert of war.

8 Then said Judas to the men that were with him, Fear ye not their multitude, neither be ye afraid of their assault.

9 Remember how our fathers were delivered in the Red sea, when Pharaoh pursued them with an army.

10 Now therefore let us cry unto heaven, if peradventure the Lord will have mercy upon us, and remember the covenant of our fathers, and destroy this host before our face this day:

11 That so all the heathen may know that there is one who delivereth and saveth Israel.

12 Then the strangers lift up their eyes, and saw them coming over against them.

13 Wherefore they went out of the camp to battle, but they that were with Judas sounded their trumpets.

14 So they joined battle, and the heathen being discomfited fled into the plain.

15 Howbeit, all the hindmost of them were slain with the sword: for they pursued them unto Gazera, and unto the plains of Idumea, and Azotus, and Jamnia, so that there were slain of them, upon a computation, three thousand men.

16 This done, Judas returned again with his host from pursuing them:

17 And said to the people, Be not greedy of the spoils, in as much as there is a battle before us,

18 And Gorgias and his host are here by us in the mountain: but stand ye now against our enemies, and overcome them,

and after this ye may boldly take the spoils.

19 As Judas was yet speaking these words, there appeared a part of them looking out of the mountain.

20 Who when they perceived that the Jews had put their host to flight, and were burning the tents (for the smoke that was seen declared what was done)

21 When therefore they perceived these things, they were sore afraid, and seeing also the host of Judas in the plain ready to fight,

22 They fled every one into the land of strangers.

23 Then Judas returned to spoil the tents, where they got much gold and silver, and blue silk, and purple of the sea, and great riches.

24 After this they went home, and sung a song of thanksgiving, and praised the Lord in heaven: because it is good, because his mercy endureth for ever.

25 Thus Israel had a great deliverance that day.

26 Now all the strangers that had escaped, came and told Lyfias what had happened.

27 Who when he heard thereof, was confounded and discouraged, because neither such things as he would, were done unto Israel, nor such things as the king commanded him were come to pass.

28 The next year therefore following, Lyfias gathered together threescore thousand choice men of foot, and five thousand horsemen, that he might subdue them.

29 So they came into Idumea, and pitched their tents at Bethsura, and Judas met

15 *Unto Gazera.*] Greek, Assaremoth.

17 *There is a battle before us.*] We have another party of the enemy to engage, namely, Gorgias's detachment, as is explained in the following verse.

22 *They fled every one into the land of strangers.*] i. e. Quite out of Judea, into the territories of the Idumeans and Phœnician.

24 *It is good.*] Margin, He is good.

25 *Thus Israel had a great deliverance that day.*] This signal victory not only delivered them from the present imminent danger, but contributed much to recover the public liberty of their country.

29 *They came into Idumea.*] Probably it ought to be read, into Judea, and so Josephus has it.

met them with ten thousand men.

30 And when he saw that mighty army, he prayed, and said blessed art thou, O Saviour of Israel, who didst quail the violence of the mighty man by the hand of thy servant David, and gavest the host of strangers into the hands of Jonathan the son of Saul, and his armour-bearer.

31 Shut up this army in the hand of thy people Israel, and let them be confounded in their power and horsemen.

32 Make them to be of no courage, and cause the boldness of their strength to fall away, and let them quake at their destruction.

33 Cast them down with the sword of them that love thee, and let all those that know thy name, praise thee with thanksgiving.

34 So they joined battle, and there were slain of the host of Lyfias about five thousand men, even before them were they slain.

35 Now when Lyfias saw his army put to flight, and the manliness of Judas soldiers, and how they were ready either to live or die valiantly, he went, into Antiochia, and gathered together a company of strangers, and having made his army greater than it was, he purposed to come again into Judea.

36 Then said Judas and his brethren, Behold, our enemies are discomfited: let us go up to cleanse, and dedicate the sanctuary.

37 Upon this all the host assembled

themselves together, and went up into mount Sion.

38 And when they saw the sanctuary desolate, and the altar profaned, and the gates burnt up, and shrubs growing in the courts as in a forest; or in one of the mountains, yea, and the priests chambers pulled down;

39 They rent their clothes, and made great lamentation, and cast ashes upon their heads,

40 And fell down flat to the ground upon their faces, and blew an alarm with the trumpets, and cried towards heaven.

41 Then Judas appointed certain men to fight against those that were in the fortrefs, until he had cleansed the sanctuary.

42 So he chose priests of blameless conversation, such as had pleasure in the law:

43 Who cleansed the sanctuary, and bare out the defiled stones into an unclean place.

44 And when as they consulted what to do with the altar of burnt-offerings, which was profaned:

45 They thought it best to pull it down, lest it should be a reproach to them, because the heathen had defiled it; wherefore they pulled it down,

46 And laid up the stones in the mountain of the temple in a convenient place, until there should come a prophet to shew what should be done with them.

47 Then they took whole stones according to the law, and built a new altar, according to the former:

48 And made up the sanctuary, and the things that were within the temple, and

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hal-

30 *Strangers.*] Cr, Philistines.

32 *To fall away.*] The Greek reads, melt.

36 *Let us go up to cleanse and dedicate the sanctuary.*] Or, Repair. To purge the temple of idols, and renew the divine worship there, is what is meant by dedicating it.

41 *Until he had cleansed the sanctuary.*] Judas, being of the sacerdotal race, directed and assisted upon this occasion in the purification of the temple.

47 *They took whole stones, &c.*] i. e. Such as had not

been hewn, or which no iron tool had been upon; agreeably to the description of the law. Exod xx. 25.

48 *Made up the sanctuary.*] By the sanctuary seems to be meant here, the holy of holies. It is probable that the heathen did the greatest damage to this, as being accounted the most holy place by the Jews; and that they laid it open to the rest of the temple: and therefore the making of it up again seems to signify separating it from the rest of the temple.



hallowed the courts.

49 They made also new holy vessels, and into the temple they brought the candlestick, and the altar of burnt-offerings, and of incense, and the temple.

50 And upon the altar they burnt incense, and the lamps that were upon the candlestick they lighted, that they might give light in the temple.

51 Furthermore, they set the loaves upon the table, and spread out the vails, and finished all the works which they had begun to make.

52 Now on the five and twentieth day of the ninth month (which is called the month Casleu) in the hundred forty and eighth year, they rose up betimes in the morning,

53 And offered sacrifice according to the law, upon the new altar of burnt-offerings, which they had made.

54 Look at what time and what day the heathen had profaned it, even in that was it dedicated with songs, and citherns, and harps, and cymbals.

55 Then all the people fell upon their faces, worshipping and praising the God of heaven, who had given them good success.

56 And so they kept the dedication of the altar eight days, and offered burnt offerings with gladness, and sacrificed the sacrifice of deliverance and praise.

57 They deckt also the forefront of the

temple with crowns of gold, and with shields; and the gates, and the chambers they renewed, and hanged doors upon them.

58 Thus was there very great gladness among the people, for that the reproach of the heathen was put away.

59 Moreover, Judas and his brethren, with the whole congregation of Israel, ordained that the days of the dedication of the altar should be kept in their season from year to year, by the space of eight days, from the five and twentieth day of the month Casleu, with mirth and gladness.

60 At that time also they builded up the mount Sion with high walls, and strong towers round about, lest the Gentiles should come and tread it down, as they had done before.

61 And they set there a garrison to keep it: and fortified Bethsura to preserve it, that the people might have a defence against Idumea.

#### C H A P. V.

3 Judas smiteth the children of Esau, Beas, and Ammon. 17 Simon is sent into Galilee: 25 The exploits of Judas in Galilee: 51 He destroyeth Ephron for denying him to pass through it. 56 Divers that in Judas absence would fight with their enemies, are slain.

NOW when the nations round about heard that the altar was built, and the

51 *Spread out the vails, &c.*] The margin reads, they spread abroad the hangings, or hanged up the vails.—There was one vail that constantly parted the holy of holies from the temple; and another vail to let down before the whole body of the temple upon particular occasions.

52 *In the hundred forty and eighth year, &c.*] i. e. From the time that Seleucus began to reign; or the time that the empire of the Greeks was established in Syria.

56 *The sacrifice of deliverance and praise.*] Margin, Peace-offering.

57 *They renewed.*] Or, dedicated.

—*And hanged doors upon them.*] Or made doors for them.

60 *They builded up the mount Sion with high walls, &c.*] The whole city of Jerusalem is frequently called Mount Sion, when spoken of distinctly from the temple; so that they repaired Jerusalem, part of which the Macedonians had burnt, and they fortified it more.

#### NOTES ON CHAP. V.

Ver. 1 *Now when the nations round about heard, &c.*] By these is meant, the Idumeans, Ammonites, Moabites,

the sanctuary renewed as before, it displeased them very much.

2 Wherefore they thought to destroy the generation of Jacob that was among them, and thereupon they began to slay and destroy the people.

3 Then Judas fought against the children of Esau in Idumea, at Arabattine, because they besieged Israel: and he gave them a great overthrow, and abated their courage, and took their spoils.

4 Also he remembered the injury of the children of Bean, who had been a snare and an offence unto the people, in that they lay in wait for them in the ways.

5 He shut them up therefore in the towers, and encamped against them, and destroyed them utterly, and burnt the towers of that place with fire, and all that were therein.

6 Afterward he passed over to the children of Ammon, where he found a mighty power, and much people, with Timotheus their captain.

7 So he fought many battles with them, till at length they were discomfited before him; and he smote them.

8 And when he had taken Jazar, with the towns belonging thereto, he returned into Judea.

9 Then the heathen that were at Galaad assembled themselves together against the Israelites that were in their quarters, to destroy them, but they fled to the fortress of Dathema;

10 And sent letters unto Judas and his brethren, The heathen that are round about us are assembled together against us to destroy us.

11 And they are preparing to come and take the fortress whereunto we are fled, Timotheus being captain of their host.

12 Come now therefore and deliver us from their hands, for many of us are slain.

13 Yea, all our brethren that were in the places of Tobie, are put to death: their wives, and their children also they have carried away captives, and borne away their stuff, and they have destroyed there about a thousand men.

14 While these letters were yet reading, behold, there came other messengers from Galilee with their clothes rent, who reported on this wise,

15 And said, they of Ptolemais, and of Tyrus, and Sidon, and all Galilee of the Gentiles, are assembled together against us to consume us.

16 Now when Judas and the people heard these words, there assembled a great congregation together, to consult what they should do for their brethren that were in trouble, and assaulted of them.

17 Then said Judas unto Simon his brother, Choose thee out men, and go and deliver thy brethren that are in Galilee, for I and Jonathan my brother will go into the country of Galaad.

18 So he left Joseph the son of Zacharias, and Azarias captains of the people, with

Phcenicians, &c. all which nations were inveterate against the Jews, and could not brook to see them prosper.

3 *At Arabattine.*] Or, Arabatthane, or Arabatan, or Akrabattine.

*They besieged Israel, &c.*] Rather made incursions upon Israel; for so Josephus explains it, and not as any formal besieging of them.

4 *He remembered the injury, &c.*] Or, malice. Those called here the children of Bean, were some men of great power among the Idumeans, who had been a great plague to the Israelites, by laying ambushes to destroy them, as

they passed on the highways, and travelled out of Judea into any of the neighbouring countries.

*Bean.*] Or, Hakan.

9 *In their quarters.*] In their neighbourhood.

13 *Tobie.*] Or, Tubin.

15 *All Gallile of the Gentiles, are assembled together, &c.*] i. e. All the Gentiles which inhabit in Galilee; for at this time not only Jews were settled in Galilee, but a great number of those who did not worship the true God. These joined themselves at this time, with the Philistines against the Jews.



with the remnant of the host in Judea to keep it:

19 Unto whom he gave commandment, saying, Take ye the charge of this people, and see that you make not war against the heathen, until the time that we come again.

20 Now unto Simon were given three thousand men to go into Galilee, and unto Judas eight thousand men for the country of Galaad.

21 Then went Simon into Galilee, where he fought many battles with the heathen, so that the heathen were discomfited by him.

22 And he pursued them unto the gate of Ptolemais; and there were slain of the heathen about three thousand men, whose spoils he took.

23 And those that were in Galilee, and in Arbattis, with their wives and their children, and all that they had, took he away with him, and brought them into Judea with great joy.

24 Judas Maccabeus also and his brother Jonathan, went over Jordan, and travelled three days journey in the wilderness.

25 Where they met with the Nabathites, who came unto them in peaceable manner, and told them every thing that had happened to their brethren in the land of Galaad:

26 And how that many of them were shut up in Bosora and Bosor, and Alema, Casphor, Maked, and Carnaim (all these cities are strong and great)

27 And that they were shut up in the rest of the cities of the country of Galaad, and that against to morrow they had appointed to bring their host against the forts, and to take them, and to destroy them all in one day.

28 Hereupon Judas and his host turned suddenly by the way of the wilderness unto Bosora; and when he had won the city, he slew all the males with the edge of the sword, and took all their spoils, and burnt the city with fire.

29 From whence he removed by night, and went till he came to the fortress.

30 And betimes in the morning they looked up, and behold, there was an innumerable people bearing ladders, and other engines of war to take the fortress: for they assaulted them.

31 When Judas therefore saw that the battle was begun, and that the cry of the city went up to heaven, with trumpets and a great sound,

32 He said unto his host, Fight this day for your brethren.

33 So he went forth behind them in three companies, who sounded their trumpets, and cried with prayer.

34 Then the host of Timotheus knowing

23 *Those that were in Galilee, and in Arbattis, &c.*] Margin, Captive Jews. Some, instead of rendering Arbattis as the name of a place, make it, those who were in plain uncultivated places, meaning, that Simon took under his protection those of the Jews, whom he found in places without defence, or in wild desert places, to which they had fled for refuge, and brought them with him into Judea.

25 *Where they met with the Nabathites. &c.*] These were a people of Arabia, sprung from Nebajoth, the first-born of Ishmael, Gen. xxv. 13.

26 *Bosora.*] Margin, Bosorra.  
*Casphor.*] Margin, Chascor, or Casphon, as ver. 36.

27 *They.*] Or, the heathen.

28 *He slew all the males, &c.*] The law recommended such a method of proceeding, Deut. xx. 13.

29 *The fortress.*] This is to be understood of the castle of Dathema, mentioned ver. 9. where a number of the Jews had been shut up.

30 *Betimes in the morning they looked, &c.*] This verse is expressed somewhat obscurely. The meaning is, that in the morning, Judas's party saw a great number of the Gentiles going to make an attack upon the castle, in which their brethren the Jews had taken refuge.

*For they assaulted them.*] Margin, The heathen assaulted the Jews.

ing that it was Maccabeus, fled from him : wherefore he smote them with a great slaughter ; so that there were killed of them that day about eight thousand men.

35 This done, Judas turned aside to Maspha ; and after he had assaulted it, he took it, and slew all the males therein, and received the spoils thereof, and burnt it with fire.

36 From thence went he and took Casphen, Maged, Bosor, and the other cities of the country of Galaad.

37 After these things gathered Timotheus another host, and encamped against Raphon beyond the brook.

38 So Judas sent *men* to espy the host, who brought him word, saying, All the heathen that be round about us, are assembled unto them, even a very great host.

39 He hath also hired the Arabians to help them, and they have pitched their tents beyond the brook, ready to come and fight against thee : upon this Judas went to meet them :

40 Then Timotheus said unto the captains of his host, When Judas and his host come near the brook, if he pass over first unto us, we shall not be able to withstand him ; for he will mightily prevail against us.

41 But if he be afraid, and camp beyond the river, we shall go over unto him, and prevail against him.

42 Now when Judas came near the brook, he caused the scribes of the people to remain by the brook : unto whom he gave commandment, saying, Suffer no man to remain in the camp, but let all come to the battle.

43 So he went first over unto them, and all the people after him : then all the hea-

then being discomfited before him, cast away their weapons, and fled unto the temple that was at Carnaim.

44 But they took the city, and burnt the temple, with all that were therein. Thus was Carnaim subdued, neither could they stand any longer before Judas.

45 Then Judas gathered together all the Israelites that were in the country of Galaad, from the least unto the greatest, even their wives and their children, and their stuff, a very great host, to the end they might come into the land of Judea.

46 Now when they came unto Ephron (this was a great city in the way as they should go, very well fortified) they could not turn from it, either on the right hand or the left, but must needs pass through the midst of it.

47 Then they of the city shut them out, and stopped up the gates with stones.

48 Whereupon Judas sent unto them in peaceable manner, saying, Let us pass through your land to go into our own country, and none shall do you any hurt ; we will only pass through on foot : howbeit they would not open unto him.

49 Wherefore Judas commanded a proclamation to be made throughout the host, that every man should pitch his tent in the place where he was.

50 So the soldiers pitched, and assaulted the city all that day and all that night, till at the length the city was delivered into his hands :

51 Who then slew all the males with the edge of the sword, and rased the city, and took the spoils thereof, and passed through the city over them that were slain.

52 After this went they over Jordan,  
3 8 into

36 *The other cities of the country of Galaad.* ] i. e. Those which the Moabites possessed.

42 *The scribes of the people.* ] i. e. The muster-masters of the army

44 *They took the city.* ] i. e. Judas and his company.

50 *Till at length the city was delivered into his hands.* ] It does not appear that it surrendered, but he took it by force.



into the great plain before Bethsan.

53 And Judas gathered together those that came behind, and exhorted the people all the way through, till they came into the land of Judea.

54 So they went up to mount Sion with joy and gladness, where they offered burnt-offerings, because not one of them were slain until they had returned in peace.

55 Now what time as Judas and Jonathan were in the land of Galaad, and Simon his brother in Galilee before Ptolemais,

56 Joseph the son of Zacharias, and Azarias, captains of the garrisons, heard of the valiant acts and warlike deeds which they had done.

57 Wherefore they said, Let us also get us a name, and go fight against the heathen that are round about us.

58 So when they had given charge unto the garrison that was with them, they went toward Jamnia.

59 Then came Gorgias and his men out of the city to fight against them.

60 And so it was that Joseph and Azarias were put to flight and pursued unto the borders of Judea: and there were slain that day of the people of Israel, about two thousand men.

61 Thus was there a great overthrow among the children of Israel, because they

were not obedient unto Judas and his brethren, but thought to do some valiant act.

62 Moreover, these men came not of the seed of those, by whose hand deliverance was given unto Israel.

63 Howbeit the man Judas and his brethren, were greatly renowned in the fight of all Israel, and of all the heathen where-soever their name was heard of:

64 Inasmuch as the people assembled unto them with joyful acclamations.

65 Afterward went Judas forth with his brethren, and fought against the children of Esau in the land toward the south, where he smote Hebron, and the towns thereof, and pulled down the fortress of it, and burnt the towers thereof round about.

66 From thence he removed to go into the land of the Philistines, and passed through Samaria.

67 At that time certain priests, desirous to shew their valour, were slain in battle, for that they went out to fight unadvisedly.

68 So Judas turned to Azotus in the land of the Philistines, and when he had pulled down their altars, and burnt their carved images with fire, and spoiled their cities, he returned into the land of Judea.

#### C H A P. VI.

8 Antiochus dieth, 12 and confesseth that he is plagued for the wrong done to Jerusalem. 20 Judas besiegeth those in the tower

53 *Judas gathered together, &c.]* i. e. He caused all the army to halt till those that were in the rear came up, and took care that no hurt should be done to them by any sudden incursion from their enemies; he comforted and encouraged them all the way.

*Those that came behind.]* Or, went hindmost.

54 *Burnt offerings.]* Margin, Peace-offerings. *Jos. Antiq. xii. 12.*

59 *To fight against them.]* Greek, To meet them in battle.

62 *These men came not of the seed of those by whose hand, &c.]* They were not of that family whom God had chosen to deliver Israel by. This plainly attributes the surprising successes of the Maccabees to the divine favour and protec-

tion; and that they were expressly appointed by God to deliver the Jewish nation from the Macedonian yoke.

65 *The towns thereof.]* Greek, The daughters thereof.

66 *The Philistines.]* Greek, Strangers.

*Samaria.]* Rather, Mareslah, as Josephus has it; Samaria was at a great distance from the rout which Judas now took.

67 *They went out to fight unadvisedly.]* i. e. Without first imploring the Divine help, and perhaps contrary to Judas's advice; so that God seems to have had intention to convince them, that it was not by the strength of their own hand that they gained such great victories over the Macedonians, but thro' his blessing upon them.

tower at Jerusalem. 28 They procure Antiochus the younger to come into Judea : 51 He besiegeth Sion, 66 and maketh peace with Israel : 62 yet overthroweth the wall of Sion.

**A**Bout that time king Antiochus travelling through the high countries, heard say that Alymais in the country of Persia, was a city greatly renowned for riches, silver and gold ;

2 And that there was in it a very rich temple, wherein were coverings of gold, and breast-plates, and shields, which Alexander son of Philip the Macedonian king, who reigned first among the Grecians, had left there.

3 Wherefore he came and sought to take the city, and to spoil it : but he was not able, because they of the city having had warning thereof,

4 Rose up against him in battle : so he fled, and departed thence with great heaviness, and returned to Babylon.

5 Moreover there came one who brought him tidings into Persia, that the armies which went against the land of Judea were put to flight.

6 And that Lyfias who went forth first with a great power, was driven away of the Jews ; and that they were made strong by the armour, and power, and store of spoils, which they had gotten of the armies, whom they had destroyed.

7 Also that they had pulled down the abomination which he had set up upon the altar in Jerusalem, and that they had compassed about the sanctuary with high walls as before, and his city Bethsura.

8 Now when the king heard these words, he was astonished, and fore moved : whereupon he laid him down upon his bed, and fell sick for grief, because it had not befallen him as he looked for.

9 And there he continued many days : for his grief was ever more and more, and he made account that he should die.

10 Wherefore he called for all his friends, and said unto them, The sleep is gone from mine eyes, and my heart faileth for very care.

11 And I thought with myself, Into what tribulation am I come, and how great a flood of misery is it wherein now I am ! for I was bountiful, and beloved in my power.

12 But now I remember the evils that I did at Jerusalem, and that I took all the vessels of gold and silver that were therein, and sent to destroy the inhabitants of Judea without a cause.

13 I perceive therefore that for this cause these troubles are come upon me, and behold, I perish through great grief in a strange land.

14 Then called he for Philip, one of his friends, whom he made ruler over all his realm,

15 And gave him the crown and his robe, and his signet, to the end he should bring up his son Antiochus, and nourish him up for the kingdom.

16 So king Antiochus died there in the hundred forty and ninth year.

17 Now when Lyfias knew that the king was dead, he set up Antiochus, his son (whom he had brought up being young) to

### NOTES on Chap. VI:

Ver. 2 Coverings of gold.] Margin, Shields.

—Shields.] Margin, Arrows.

—Who reigned first among the Grecians.] i. e. Who was the first of the Grecians that reigned over Syria and Egypt.

13 I perceive therefore, &c.] It deserves to be observed

how this haughty tyrant was humbled and brought to a confession ; for it was on account of his own wicked deeds that his troubles came upon him, and brought him to an end, in a land remote from his royal seat.

15 He should bring up his son Antiochus.] Margin, He should take his son Antiochus to him.



to reign in his stead, and his name he called Eupator.

18 About this time they that were in the tower, shut up the Israelites round about the sanctuary, and fought always their hurt and the strengthening of the heathen.

19 Wherefore Judas purposing to destroy them, called all the people together to besiege them.

20 So they came together and besieged them in the hundred and fiftieth year, and he made mounts for shot against them, and other engines.

21 Howbeit certain of them that were besieged got forth, unto whom some ungodly men of Israel joined themselves.

22 And they went unto the king, and said, How long will it be ere thou execute judgment, and avenge our brethren?

23 We have been willing to serve thy father, and to do as he would have us, and to obey his commandments.

24 For which cause they of our nation besiege the tower, and are alienated from us: moreover as many of us as they could light on, they slew, and spoiled our inheritance.

25 Neither have they stretched out their hand against us only, but also against all their borders.

26 And behold, this day are they besieging the tower at Jerusalem, to take it: the sanctuary also, and Bethsura have they fortified.

27 Wherefore if thou dost not prevent them quickly, they will do greater things than these, neither shalt thou be able to

rule them.

28 Now when the king heard this, he was angry, and gathered together all his friends, and the captains of his army, and those that had charge of the horse.

29 There came also unto him from other kingdoms, and from isles of the sea, bands of hired foldiers.

30 So that the number of his army was an hundred thousand footmen, and twenty thousand horsemen, and two and thirty elephants exercised in battle.

31 These went through Idumea, and pitched against Bethsura, which they assaulted many days, making engines of war; but they of Bethsura came out, and burnt them with fire, and fought valiantly.

32 Upon this Judas removed from the tower, and pitched in Bathzacharias, over against the king's camp.

33 Then the king rising very early marched fiercely with his host toward Bathzacharias, where his armies made them ready to battle, and sounded the trumpets.

34 And to the end they might provoke the elephants to fight, they shewed them the blood of grapes and mulberries.

35 Moreover they divided the beasts among the armies, and for every elephant they appointed a thousand men armed with coats of mail, and with helmets of brass on their heads: and besides this, for every beast were ordained five hundred horsemen of the best.

36 These were ready at every occasion; wheresoever the beast was, and whithersoever

18 *About this time they that were in the tower, &c.]* When Judas took possession of Jerusalem, he had not time to besiege the Macedonian garrison, which was in the tower of David, being obliged to go and attack the neighbouring nations that were gathered against him. But these being now all quelled, he turned his thoughts to reduce it, as they much annoyed the Israelites in going to or from the temple,

21 *Certain of them that were besieged got forth.]* These were apostate Jews, who had joined themselves with the Macedonian garrison.

34 *To the end they might provoke the elephants, &c.]* They shewed the elephants the juice of red grapes and mulberries, here called blood, as being of the colour of it.

ever the beast went, they went also, neither departed they from him.

37 And upon the beasts there were strong towers of wood, which covered every one of them, and were girt fast unto them with devices: there were also upon every one two and thirty strong men that fought upon them, besides the Indian that ruled him.

38 As for the remnant of the horsemen, they set them on this side, and that side, at the two parts of the host, giving them signs what to do, and being harnessed all over amidst the ranks.

39 Now when the sun shone upon the shields of gold, and bras, the mountains glistered therewith, and shined like lamps of fire.

40 So part of the king's army being spread upon the high mountains, and part on the valleys below, they marched on safely, and in order.

41 Wherefore all that heard the noise of their multitude, and the marching of the company, and the rattling of the harness, were moved: for the army was very great and mighty.

42 Then Judas and his host drew near, and entered into battle, and there were slain of the king's army six hundred men.

43 ¶ Eleazer also *furnamed* Savaran, perceiving that one of the beasts armed with royal harness, was higher than all the rest, and supposing that the king was upon him,

44 Put himself in jeopardy, to the end he might deliver his people, and get him a perpetual name:

45 Wherefore he ran upon him courageously through the midst of the battle, slaying on the right hand, and on the left, so that they were divided from him on both sides.

46 Which done, he crept under the elephant, and thrust him under, and slew him: whereupon the elephant fell down upon him, and there he died.

47 Howbeit, *the rest of the Jews* seeing the strength of the king, and the violence of his forces, turned away from them.

48 Then the king's army went up to Jerusalem to meet them, and the king pitched his tents against Judea, and against mount Sion.

49 But with them that were in Bethsura, he made peace: for they came out of the city, because they had no victuals there, to endure the siege, it being a year of rest to the land.

50 So the king took Bethsura, and set a garrison there to keep it.

51 As for the sanctuary, he besieged it many days, and set there artillery with engines, and instruments to cast fire and stones, and pieces to cast darts and slings.

52 Whereupon they also made engines against their engines, and held them battle a long season.

53 Yet at the last their vessels being without victuals, (for that it was the seventh year, and they in Judea, that were delivered from the Gentiles had eaten up the residue of the store.)

54 There were but a few left in the sanctuary, because the famine did so prevail against them, that they were fain to

3 T

disperse

38 *Giving them signs what to do, &c.*] Margin reads, Stirring them up, and being compassed with the ranks, or defended with the valleys: so that, according to this reading, the foot were animated and defended by the horse, in the passes of the mountains.

45 *So that they were divided.*] Margin, So that he cut

them in pieces.

49 *They came out of the city.*] Margin reads, add, out of Josephus; they yielded themselves.

51 *Set there artillery, &c.*] Or, made mounts for shot, i. e. mounts to place engines upon, to cast darts, fire, &c.

52 *They also made engines.*] i. e. the Jews.



disperse themselves, every man to his own place.

55 At that time Lyfias heard say, that Philip (whom Antiochus the king whiles he lived had appointed to bring up his son Antiochus, that he might be king)

56 Was returned out of Persia, and Media, and the king's host also that went with him, and that he fought to take unto him the ruling of the affairs.

57 Wherefore he went in all haste, and said to the king, and the captains of the host, and the company, we decay daily, and our victuals are but small, and the place we lay siege unto is strong, and the affairs of the kingdom lie upon us.

58 Now therefore let us be friends with these men, and make peace with them, and with all their nation;

59 And covenant with them, that they shall live after their laws, as they did before, for they are therefore displeased, and have done all these things because we abolished their laws.

60 So the king and the princes were content: wherefore he sent unto them to make peace, and they accepted thereof.

61 Also the king and the princes made an oath unto them: whereupon they went out of the strong hold.

62 Then the king entered into mount Sion, but when he saw the strength of the

place, he brake his oath that he had made, and gave commandment to pull down the wall round about.

63 Afterward departed he in all haste, and returned unto Antiochia, where he found Philip to be master of the city: So he fought against him, and took the city by force.

## CHAP. VII.

1 Antiochus is slain, and Demetrius reigneth in his stead. 5 Alcimus would be high priest, and complaineth of Judas to the king: 16 He slayeth threescore Assideans.

34 Nicanor is slain, and the king's forces are defeated by Judas. 49 The day of this victory is kept holy every year.

**I**N the hundred and one and fiftieth year, Demetrius the son of Seleucus departed from Rome, and came up with a few men unto a city of the sea-coast, and reigned there.

2 And as he entered into the palace of his ancestors, so it was, that his forces had taken Antiochus and Lyfias to bring them unto him.

3 Wherefore when he knew it, he said, Let me not see their faces:

4 So his host slew them. Now when Demetrius was set upon the throne of his kingdom,

5 There came unto him all the wicked and

57 The place we lay siege unto is strong, &c.] The second temple was in a citadel-form, fortified with walls, &c. so as to be a very strong place. What Lyfias meant by "the affairs of the kingdom lie upon us," was, lest Philip, under the sanction of being protector to the prince, should get the power of every thing into his hands.

58 Let us be friends.] Greek, Give hands.

60 So the king and princes were content, &c.] Thus we see how the divine providence works, and makes use of the passions of men, to bring about his purposes, and to serve those who put their confidence in him. Lyfias's envy to Philip prevailed over his hatred to the Jews; tho' this undoubtedly was most inveterate, from the disgrace he had received from his being routed by them with forces far inferior to his.

## NOTES on Chap. VII.

Ver. 1 Demetrius the son of Seleucus departed from Rome, &c.] Demetrius, being an hostage in Rome at the time of his father's death, his uncle Antiochus Epiphanes seized upon the kingdom of Syria: but at length, resolved to quit Rome with no more than eight approved friends, and their servants, and make an attempt to recover his right, he first came to Tripoli in Syria, where he was received as rightful king: and his party increased so, that he was able to march on to the capital, and take both Antiochus and Lyfias prisoners.

Unto a city of the sea-coast.] Tripoli. *Jes. Antiq.* l. xii. c. 16. 2. As he entered into the palace of his ancestors.] Greek, Into the house of the kingdom of his father.

and ungodly men of Israel, having Alcimus (who was desirous to be high-priest) for their captain.

6 And they accused the people to the king, saying, Judas and his brethren have slain all thy friends, and driven us out of our own land.

7 Now therefore send some man whom thou trustest, and let him go and see what havock he hath made amongst us, and in the king's land, and let him punish them with all them that aid them.

8 Then the king chose Bacchides, a friend of the king, who ruled beyond the flood, and was a great man in the kingdom, and faithful to the king.

9 And him he sent with that wicked Alcimus, whom he made high priest, and commanded that he should take vengeance of the children of Israel.

10 So they departed and came with a great power into the land of Judea, where they sent messengers to Judas and his brethren with peaceable words deceitfully.

11 But they gave no heed to their words, for they saw that they were come with a great power.

12 Then did there assemble unto Alcimus and Bacchides, a company of scribes to require justice.

13 Now the Assideans were the first among the children of Israel, that sought peace with them.

14 For said they, One that is a priest of the seed of Aaron is come with this army,

and he will do us no wrong.

15 So he spake unto them peaceably, and sware unto them, saying, We will procure the harm neither of you nor your friends.

16 Whereupon they believed him: howbeit he took of them threescore men, and slew them in one day, according to the words, which he wrote.

17 The flesh of thy saints have they cast out, and their blood have they shed round about Jerusalem, and there was none to bury them.

18 Wherefore the fear and dread of them fell upon all the people, who said, There is neither truth nor righteousness in them, for they have broken the covenant and oath that they made.

19 After this removed Bacchides from Jerusalem, and pitched his tents in Bezeth, where he sent and took many of the men that had forsaken him, and certain of the people also, and when he had slain them, he cast them into the great pit.

20 Then committed he the country to Alcimus, and left with him a power to aid him: so Bacchides went to the king.

21 But Alcimus contended for the high priesthood.

22 And unto him resorted all such as troubled the people, who after they had gotten the land of Juda into their power, did much hurt in Israel.

23 Now when Judas saw all the mischief that Alcimus and his company had done

#### NOTES ON CHAP. VII.

5 *Alcimus, who was desirous to be high-priest, &c.*] Alcimus, as Josephus writes, was already high-priest; so that the meaning is, he was desirous of continuing in the office, and therefore he endeavoured to ingratiate himself with the king of Syria, under whose dominion Judea was, thinking, that unless he had that prince's interest, the office would not be secured to him.

8 *Who ruled beyond the flood.*] i. e. Beyond the river Euphrates; for the river by way of distinction, in the Jewish writers, always means this. Bacchides was governor of Mesopotamia.

12 *A company of scribes.*] The margin reads, Officers, governors, chief men, or men in authority.

13 *The Assideans were the first, &c.*] The Assideans seem to have been harmless undesigning men, who not intending evil themselves, suspected none of others.

17 *The flesh of thy saints have they cast out, &c.*] This is a quotation from Psalm lxxix. 2, 3.

18 *Nor righteousness.*] Greek, Judgment.

21 *Alcimus contended for the high-priesthood.*] Margin, Laboured to defend his high-priesthood, i. e. to continue himself in that office.



done among the Israelites, even above the heathen,

24 He went out into all the coasts of Judea round about, and took vengeance of them that had revolted from him, so that they durst no more go forth into the country.

25 On the other side when Alcimus saw that Judas and his company had gotten the upper hand, and knew that he was not able to abide their force, he went again to the king, and said all the worst of them that he could.

26 Then the king sent Nicanor, one of his honourable princes, a man that bare deadly hate unto Israel, with commandment to destroy the people.

27 So Nicanor came to Jerusalem with a great force; and sent unto Judas and his brethren deceitfully with friendly words, saying,

28 Let there be no battle between me and you. I will come with a few men, that I may see you in peace.

29 He came therefore to Judas, and they saluted one another peaceably. Howbeit, the enemies were prepared to take away Judas by violence.

30 Which thing after it was known to Judas, to wit, that he came unto him with deceit, he was fore afraid of him, and would see his face no more.

31 Nicanor also, when he saw that his counsel was discovered, went out to fight against Judas, besides Capharsalama.

32 Where there were slain of Nicanor's side about five thousand men, and the rest fled into the city of David.

33 After this went Nicanor up to mount Sion, and there came out of the sanctuary certain of the priests and certain of the elders of the people to salute him peaceably, and to shew him the burnt-sacrifice that was offered for the king.

34 But he mocked them, and laughed at them, and abused them shamefully, and spake proudly.

35 And swore in his wrath, saying, Unless Judas and his host be now delivered into my hands, if ever I come again in safety, I will burn up this house; and with that he went out in a great rage.

36 Then the priests entered in, and stood before the altar, and the temple, weeping, and saying,

37 Thou, O Lord, didst choose this house to be called by thy name, and to be a house of prayer and petition for thy people.

38 Be avenged of this man and his host, and let them fall by the sword: remember their blasphemies, and suffer them not to continue any longer.

39 So Nicanor went out of Jerusalem, and

24 *I got vengeance of them that had revolted, &c.*] Or, fled from him to the enemy. Judas and his men were so alert, that the contrary party kept themselves in their strong holds, and were afraid to make any incursions into the country.

—*Durst no more go forth into the country.*] Or, invade the country.

25 *Had gotten the upper hand.*] Or, were grown very strong.

—*He was not able to abide their force.*] Greek, To abide them.

27 *Friendly words.*] Greek, Peaceable.

28 *That I may see you in peace.*] Greek, See your faces.

29 *Prepared to take away Judas by violence.*] There was an ambush laid to surprize Judas, upon a signal given by Nicanor; but Judas discovered the plot.

31 *Capharsalama*] Or, Carphasalama.

32 *There were slain of Nicanor's side about five thousand, &c.*] This verse is obscure; it ought to be rendered, "There were slain by Nicanor's party about five thousand men," namely, of the Jews: *And the remainder of the Jews fled into the city of David:* by which is here meant, the temple, as Josephus expressly says. And it appears from the next verse, that the Macedonians were, at this time, in possession of the fortress in that part of Jerusalem called the city of David.

34 *Abused them shamefully.*] The Greek is, Defiled them shamefully; which seems to signify his grievously offending their ears with profane and blasphemous speeches.

35 *If ever I come again in safety.*] Greek, In peace.

36 *Stood before the altar, and the temple, &c.*] Rather, they stood between the altar and the porch of the temple.

and pitched his tents in Bethoron, where an host out of Syria met him.

40 But Judas pitched in Adasa with three thousand men, and there he prayed, saying,

41 O Lord, when they that were sent from the king of the Assyrians blasphemed, thine angel went out, and smote an hundred four score and five thousand of them:

42 Even so destroy thou this host before us this day, that the rest may know that he hath spoken blasphemously against thy sanctuary, and judge thou him according to his wickedness.

43 So the thirteenth day of the month Adar, the host joined battle: but Nicanor's host was discomfited, and he himself was first slain in the battle.

44 Now when Nicanor's host saw that he was slain, they cast away their weapons, and fled.

45 Then they pursued after them a day's journey, from Adasa unto Gazera, founding an alarm after them with their trumpets.

46 Whereupon they came forth out of all the towns of Judea round about, and closed them in, so that they turning back upon them that pursued them, were all slain with the sword, and not one of them was left.

47 Afterwards they took the spoils, and the prey, and smote off Nicanor's head, and his right hand which he stretched out so

proudly, and brought them away, and hanged them up towards Jerusalem.

48 For this cause the people rejoiced greatly, and they kept that day a day of great gladness.

49 Moreover, they ordained to keep yearly this day, being the thirteenth of Adar.

50 Thus the land of Juda was in rest a little while.

### CHAP. VIII.

1 *Judas is informed of the power and policy of the Romans, 20 and maketh a league with them. 24 The articles of that league.*

NOW Judas had heard of the fame of the Romans, that they were mighty and valiant men, and such as would lovingly accept all that joined themselves unto them, and make a league of amity with all that came unto them;

2 And that they were men of great valour. It was told him also of their wars and noble acts which they had done amongst the Galatians, and how they had conquered them, and brought them under tribute,

3 And what they had done in the country of Spain, for the winning of the mines of the silver and gold which is there;

4 And that by their policy and patience they had conquered all the place (though it were very far from them) and the kings also that came against them from the uttermost part of the earth, till they had dis-

3 U

com-

43 *He himself was first slain in the temple.]* Thus did the divine providence give to the Jews, though inferior in number, a most signal victory. The loss of their general, which happened on the first onset, so dispirited his whole army, that they made resistance no longer. Thus can God bring to pass whatsoever he pleases, even without any exertion of miraculous power, by employing particular circumstances to work his purposes.

45 *Then they pursued.]* i. e. The Jews pursued. *Sounding an alarm after them with their trumpets.]* i. e. The Jews sounded their trumpets in such a manner as signified their having gotten a complete victory, and that

the enemy were flying before them.

47 *His right hand which he stretched out so proudly.]* In a threatening manner against the temple.

### NOTES on Chap. VIII.

Ver. 1 *Fame of the Romans.]* The Romans are here spoken of such as they were before the third Punic war, till which time their virtues and abilities were remarkable.

2 *The Galatians.]* Or, The Gallo-Grecians; the margin reads, Frenchmen.

4 *They had conquered all the place.]* Or, Every place.



comfited them, and given them a great overthrow, so that the rest did give them tribute every year:

5 Besides this, how they had discomfited in battle Philip, and Perseus king of the Citims, with others that lift up themselves against them, and had overcome them:

6 How also Antiochus the great king of Asia, that came against them in battle, having an hundred and twenty elephants, with horsemen and chariots, and a very great army, was discomfited by them.

7 And how they took him alive, and covenanted that he, and such as reigned after him, should pay a great tribute, and give hostages, and that which was agreed upon,

8 And the country of India, and Media, and Lydia, and of the goodliest countries, which they took of him, and gave to king Eumenes:

9 Moreover, how the Grecians had determined to come and destroy them;

10 And that they having knowledge thereof, sent against them a certain captain, and fighting with them, slew many of them, and carried away captives their wives and their children, and spoiled them, and took possession of their lands, and pulled down their strong holds, and brought them to be their servants unto this day.

11 *It was told him* besides, how they destroyed and brought under their dominion

all other kingdoms and isles that at any time resisted them;

12 But with their friends, and such as relied upon them, they kept amity: and that they had conquered kingdoms both far and nigh, insomuch as all that heard of their name were afraid of them:

13 Also, that whom they would help to a kingdom, those reign; and whom again they would, they displace; finally, that they were greatly exalted:

14 Yet for all this, none of them wore a crown, or was clothed in purple to be magnified thereby:

15 Moreover, how they had made for themselves a senate house, wherein three hundred and twenty men sat in council daily, consulting alway for the people, to the end they might be well ordered:

16 And that they committed their government to one man every year, who ruled over all their country, and that all were obedient to that one, and that their was neither envy nor emulation amongst them.

17 In consideration of these things, Judas chose Eupolemus the son of John, the son of Accos, and Jason the son of Eleazar, and sent them to Rome to make a league of amity and confederacy with them.

18 *And to intreat them* that they would take the yoke from them, for they saw that the kingdom of the Grecians did oppress Israel with servitude.

19 They went therefore to Rome (which was

5 *The Citims.*] Or, Macedonians.

6 *Antiochus the great king of Asia.*] He had Syria, and many other provinces of Asia, under his dominion.

7 *They took him alive, &c.*] It does not appear that the Romans ever took him captive, but reduced him to the necessity of suing for peace, and complying with their terms.

8 *The country of India, and Media, and Lydia, &c.*] This is a mistake of the transcribers crept into the Greek copies; for certain it is that neither India, nor Media, were in the power of the Romans at the time here spoken of; so that it ought undoubtedly to be read, Ionia, Mysia,

and Lydia, since these were actually taken from Antiochus by the Romans, and given to king Eumenes.

15 *Three hundred and twenty men sat.*] The number of senators was not absolutely fixed: Plutarch and other authors make them, in the time of the Gracchi, to have been three hundred.

18 *They saw that the kingdom of the Grecians, &c.*] This means, that the Romans might see that the Macedonian kings plainly intended to enslave the Jewish people; and that therefore it was becoming the dignity and humanity of the Romans to take them under their protection.

was a very great journey) and came into the senate, where they spake, and said,

20 Judas Maccabeus with his brethren, and the people of the Jews, have sent us unto you, to make a confederacy and peace with you, and that we might be registered your confederates and friends.

21 So that matter pleased the Romans well.

22 And this is the copy of the epistle which the senate wrote back again, in tables of brass, and sent to Jerusalem; that there they might have by them a memorial of peace and confederacy:

23 Good success be to the Romans, and to the people of the Jews, by sea and by land for ever: the sword also and enemy be far from them.

24 If there come first any war upon the Romans, or any of their confederates, throughout all their dominion,

25 The people of the Jews shall help them, as the time shall be appointed, with all their heart.

26 Neither shall they give any thing unto them that make war upon them, or aid them with victuals, weapons, money, or ships, as it hath seemed good unto the Romans, but they shall keep their covenant without taking any thing therefore.

27 In the same manner also, if war come first upon the nation of the Jews, the Romans shall help them with all their heart, according as the time shall be appointed them.

28 Neither shall victuals be given to them that take part against them, or wea-

26 Neither shall they give any thing unto them, &c.] They shall demand no pay for the succours which they shall lend the Romans, or their confederates; but it shall be at their own charge.

30 If hereafter the one party, or the other, &c.] The sense of this is, that alterations in the articles of the league might be proposed at any time, by either nation, without its being looked upon as a breach of the league; and that if such alterations should be agreeable to both

pons, or money, or ships, as it hath seemed good to the Romans; but they shall keep their covenants, and that without deceit.

20 According to these articles did the Romans make a covenant with the people of the Jews.

30 Howbeit, if hereafter the one party or the other shall think meet to add or diminish any thing, they may do it at their pleasures, and whatsoever they shall add or take away, shall be ratified.

31 And as touching the evils that Demetrius doeth to the Jews, we have written unto him, saying, Wherefore hast thou made thy yoke heavy upon our friends and confederates the Jews?

32 If therefore they complain any more against thee, we will do them justice, and fight with thee by sea and by land.

## CHAP. IX.

1 Alcimus and Bacchides come again with new forces into Judea. 7 The army of Judas flee from him, 17 and he is slain.

30 Jonathan is in his place, 40 and revengeth his brother John's quarrel.

55 Alcimus is plagued, and dieth. 70 Bacchides maketh peace with Jonathan.

**F**urthermore, when Demetrius heard that Nicanor and his host were slain in battle, he sent Bacchides and Alcimus into the land of Judea the second time, and with them the chief strength of his host.

2 Who went forth by the way that leadeth to Galgala, and pitched their tents before Maseloth, which is in Arbela, and after

nations, they should be made as binding as the league itself.

## NOTES ON CHAP. IX.

Ver. 1. He sent Bacchides, &c.] Greek, He added, or proceeded to send.

— The chief strength.] Margin, Or the right wing.

2 Galgala.] Margin, Galilea.



ter they had won it, they slew much people.

3 Also the first month of the hundred fifty and second year, they encamped before Jerusalem.

4 From whence they removed and went to Berea, with twenty thousand footmen, and two thousand horsemen.

5 Now Judas had pitched his tents at Eleazar, and three thousand chosen men with him.

6 Who seeing the multitude of the other army to be so great, were sore afraid, whereupon many conveyed themselves out of the host, insomuch as there abode of them no more but eight hundred men.

7 When Judas therefore saw that his host slipped away, and that the battle pressed upon him, he was sore troubled in mind, and much distressed, for that he had no time to gather them together.

8 Nevertheless unto them that remained, he said, Let us arise, and go up against our enemies, if peradventure we may be able to fight with them.

9 But they dehorted him, saying, We shall never be able: let us now rather save our lives, and hereafter we will return with our brethren, and fight against them: for we are but few.

10 Then Judas said, God forbid that I should do this thing, and flee away from them: if our time be come, let us die manfully for our brethren, and let us not stain our honour.

11 With that the host of Bacchides removed out of their tents, and stood over against them, their horsemen being divided into two troops, and their slingers and archers going before the host, and they that

marched in the foreward were all mighty men.

12 As for Bacchides, he was in the right wing, so the host drew near on the two parts, and sounded their trumpets.

13 They also of Judas side, even they sounded their trumpets also, so that the earth shook at the noise of the armies, and the battle continued from morning till night.

14 Now when Judas perceived that Bacchides and the strength of his army were on the right side, he took with him all the hardy men,

15 Who discomfited the right wing, and pursued them unto the mount Azotus.

16 But when they of the left wing saw that they of the right wing were discomfited, they followed upon Judas and those that were with him, hard at the heels from behind:

17 Whereupon there was a sore battle, insomuch as many were slain on both parts.

18 Judas also was killed, and the remnant fled.

19 Then Jonathan and Simon took Judas their brother, and buried him in the sepulchre of his fathers in Modin.

20 Moreover they bewailed him, and all Israel made great lamentation for him, and mourned many days, saying,

21 How is the valiant man fallen that delivered Israel!

22 As for the other things concerning Judas and his wars, and the noble acts which he did, and his greatness, they are not written: for they were very many.

23 Now after the death of Judas, the wicked began to put forth their heads in all

4 Berea:] Margin, Berretho. Joseph.

9 Let us now rather save our lives, &c.] Let us now rather consult how to save the lives, seeing we are so very few, than regard any matter of glory at present, that we may return again with a reinforcement, and fight

against them with greater probability of success.

10 Let us not stain our honour.] The Greek is, Let us not leave any just cause behind us, why our glory should be spoken against.

11 Over against them.] i. e. The Jews.

all the coasts of Israel, and there rose up all such as wrought iniquity.

24 In those days also was there a very great famine, by reason whereof the country revolted, and went with them.

25 Then Bacchides chose the wicked men, and made them lords of the country.

26 And they made enquiry and search for Judas's friends, and brought them unto Bacchides, who took vengeance of them, and used them despitefully.

27 So was there a great affliction in Israel, the like whereof was not since the time that a prophet was not seen amongst them.

28 For this cause all Judas's friends came together, and said unto Jonathan,

29 Since thy brother Judas died, we have no man like him to go forth against our enemies, and Bacchides, and against them of our nation that are adversaries to us.

30 Now therefore we have chosen thee this day to be our prince, and captain in his stead, that thou mayest fight our battles.

31 Upon this Jonathan took the governance upon him at that time, and rose up in stead of his brother Judas.

32 But when Bacchides gat knowledge thereof, he sought for to slay him.

33 Then Jonathan and Simon his brother, and all that were with him, perceiving that, fled into the wilderness of Thecoe, and pitched their tents by the water of the pool Asphar.

34 Which when Bacchides understood, he came near to Jordan with all his host upon the sabbath-day.

35 Now Jonathan had sent his brother John a captain of the people, to pray his friends the Nabathites, that they might leave with them their carriage, which was much.

36 But the children of Jambri came out of Medaba, and took John and all that he had, and went their way with it.

37 After this came word to Jonathan and Simon his brother, that the children of Jambri made a great marriage, and were bringing the bride from Nadabatha with a great train, as being the daughter of one of the great princes of Chanaan.

38 Therefore they remembered John their brother, and went up and hid themselves under the covert of the mountain.

39 Where they lift up their eyes, and looked, and behold, there was much ado, and great carriage: and the bridegroom came forth, and his friends and brethren to meet them with drums and instruments of musick, and many weapons.

40 Then Jonathan and they that were with him, rose up against them from the place where they lay in ambush, and made a slaughter of them in such sort, as many fell down dead, and the remnant fled into the mountain, and they took all their spoils.

41 Thus was the marriage turned into mourning, and the noise of their melody into lamentation.

3 X

42 SO

24 *The country revolted, and went with them.*] Namely, with Bacchides and his company. Great numbers, but not the whole country, joined his party; for it is evident from what follows, that Judas's friends still held out.

34 *He came near to Jordan on the sabbath day.*] Margin reads, Which when Bacchides understood on the sabbath-day, he came near, &c.

35 *John a captain of the people.*] Joseph. Antiq. lib. 13. chap. 1.

— *That they might leave with them their carriage, &c.*] By their carriage, or as it may be rendered, their stuff, is to be understood their goods and implements of various kinds, which it would be burthensome to carry with them.

36 *The children of Jambri.*] Greek, Ambri.

37 *Nadabatha*] Or, Medaba.

39 *With drums*] Or, Timbrels.

— *And instruments of music*] Or, Musicians.



42 So when they had avenged fully the blood of their brother, they turned again to the marsh of Jordan.

43 Now when Bacchides heard hereof, he came on the sabbath-day unto the banks of Jordan with a great power.

44 Then Jonathan said to his company, Let us go up now and fight for our lives, for it standeth not with us to day, as in time past :

45 For behold, the battle is before us and behind us, and the water of Jordan on this side and that side, the marsh likewise and wood, neither is there place for us to turn aside.

46 Wherefore cry ye now unto heaven, that ye may be delivered from the hand of your enemies.

47 With that they joined battle, and Jonathan stretched forth his hand to smite Bacchides, but he turned back from him.

48 Then Jonathan and they that were with him, leapt into Jordan, and swam over unto the farther bank : howbeit the other passed not over Jordan unto them.

49 So there were slain of Bacchides side that day about a thousand men.

50 Afterward returned *Bacchides* to Jerusalem, and repaired the strong cities in Judea ; the fort in Jericho, and Emmaus, and Bethoron, and Bethel, and Thaminatha, Pharathon, and Taphon, *these did he strengthen* with high walls, with gates, and

with bars.

51 And in them he set a garrison, that they might work malice upon Israel.

52 He fortified also the city Bethsura, and Gazara, and the tower, and put forces in them, and provision of victuals.

53 Besides, he took the chief men's sons in the country for hostages, and put them into the tower at Jerusalem to be kept.

54 Moreover, in the hundred fifty and third year, in the second month, Alcimus commanded that the wall of the inner court of the sanctuary should be pulled down ; he pulled down also the works of the prophets.

55 And as he began to pull down, even at that time was Alcimus plagued, and his enterprizes hindred : for his mouth was stopped, and he was taken with a palsy, so that he could no more speak any thing, nor give order concerning his house.

56 So Alcimus died at that time with great torment.

57 Now when Bacchides saw that Alcimus was dead, he returned to the king, whereupon the land of Judea was in rest two years.

58 Then all the ungodly men held a council, saying, Behold, Jonathan and his company are at ease, and dwell without care : now therefore we will bring Bacchides hither, who shall take them all in one night.

59 So they went and consulted with him.

60 Then

44 *Let us go up now, and fight for our lives, &c.*] He represented to them, that the case was not the same with them now as it was before, when they encamped in the wilderness of Thecoe, where they could retire at any time, and avoid an engagement : but now there was no retiring, as they were hemmed in on every side, and therefore they must fight or perish ; and their lives being thus in danger, it was lawful for them to engage, though it was on the sabbath day.

49 *About a thousand men.*] Josephus says, About two thousand. Antiq. b. 13. ch. 1.

50 *To Jerusalem, &c.*] i. e. To the fort or town, called

the city of David, in the first chapter ; where, during all these troubles, the Macedonians had still kept a garrison.

— *And repaired, &c.*] Or, Built.

— *Taphon.*] Josephus, Tecoa.

52 *The city Bethsura.*] Greek, The city in Bethsura.

55 *His mouth was stopped, and he was taken with a palsy.*] This seems to have been a divine judgment inflicted on Alcimus, for his attempting to take away those distinctions between the Jews and Gentiles in the temple, which God had still thought proper to have kept up.

60 Then removed he, and came with a great host, and sent letters privily to his adherents in Judea, that they should take Jonathan and those that were with him; howbeit they could not, because their counsel was known unto them.

61 Wherefore they took of the men of the country that were authors of that mischief, about fifty persons, and slew them.

62 Afterward Jonathan and Simon, and they that were with him, got them away to Bethbasi, which is in the wilderness, and they repaired the decays thereof, and made it strong.

63 Which thing when Bacchides knew, he gathered together all his host, and sent word to them that were of Judea.

64 Then went he, and laid siege against Bethbasi, and they fought against it a long season, and made engines of war.

65 But Jonathan left his brother Simon in the city, and went forth himself into the country, and with a certain number went he forth.

66 And he smote Odonarkes and his brethren, and the children of Phasiron in their tent.

67 And when he began to smite them, and came up with his forces, Simon and his company went out of the city, and burnt up the engines of war.

68 And fought against Bacchides, who was discomfited by them, and they afflicted him sore. For his counsel and travel was in vain.

69 Wherefore he was very wroth at the wicked men that gave him counsel to come into the country, inasmuch as he slew many of them, and purposed to return, into his own country.

70 Whereof when Jonathan had knowledge, he sent ambassadors unto him, to the end he should make peace with him, and deliver them the prisoners.

71 Which thing he accepted, and did according to his demands, and sware unto him, that he would never do him harm all the days of his life.

72 When therefore he had restored unto him the prisoners that he had taken aforetime out of the land of Judea, he returned, and went his way into his own land, neither came he any more into their borders.

73 Thus the sword ceased from Israel: but Jonathan dwelt at Machmas, and began to govern the people, and he destroyed the ungodly men out of Israel.

#### CHAP. X.

1 *Demetrius maketh large offers to have peace with Jonathan: 25 His letters to the Jews. 47 Jonathan maketh peace with Alexander: 50 Who killeth Demetrius, 58 and marrieth the daughter of Ptolemeus. 62 Jonathan is sent for by him, and much honoured, 75 and prevaieth against the forces of Demetrius the younger, 84 and burneth the temple of Dagon.*

**I**N the hundred and sixtieth year, Alexander the son of Antiochus, surnamed Epiphanes, went up and took Ptolemais: for the

63 *To them that were of Judea.]* Margin, To such of the country as were his friends to take his part.

65 *He smote Odonarkes, &c.]* Margin, Odomarra.—Jonathan seems to have taken a circuit, and to have penetrated so far as to come upon the rear of Bacchides his army, which when his brother Simon saw from the walls, or towers of Bethbasi, he sallied out, and burnt all the engines of the besiegers, whilst they were drawn off by Jonathan's attack, and fell upon them in front; so that they were attacked both ways, and routed.

72 *Neither came he any more.]* Greek, Added he to come

any more.

73 *Thus the sword ceased from Israel, &c.]* i. e. The Macedonians no longer harassed the inhabitants of Judea. By the ungodly men, are meant those who had apostatized from the law, and paid no regard to its precepts.

*To govern.]* Greek, Judge.

#### NOTES on Chap. X.

Ver. 1. *The son of Antiochus, surnamed Epiphanes.]* The son of Antiochus Epiphanes. Josephus.



the people had received him, by means whereof he reigned there.

2 Now when king Demetrius heard thereof, he gathered together an exceeding great host, and went forth against him to fight.

3 Moreover, Demetrius sent letters unto Jonathan with loving words, so as he magnified him.

4 For said he, Let us first make peace with him, before he join with Alexander against us:

5 Else he will remember all the evils that we have done against him, and against his brethren, and his people.

6 Wherefore he gave him authority to gather together an host, and to provide weapons that he might aid him in battle: he commanded also that the hostages that were in the tower should be delivered him.

7 Then came Jonathan to Jerusalem, and read the letters in the audience of all the people, and of them that were in the tower.

8 Who were sore afraid when they heard that the king had given him authority to gather together an host.

9 Whereupon, they of the tower delivered their hostages unto Jonathan, and he delivered them unto their parents.

10 This done, Jonathan settled himself in Jerusalem, and began to build and repair the city.

11 And he commanded the workmen to build the walls, and the mount Sion round about with square stones, for fortification; and they did so.

12 Then the strangers that were in the

fortresses which Bacchides had built, fled away:

13 Infomuch as every man left his place, and went into his own country.

14 Only at Bethsura, certain of those that had forsaken the law and the commandments, remained still: for it was their place of refuge.

15 Now when king Alexander had heard what promises Demetrius had sent unto Jonathan: when also it was told him of the battles and noble acts which he and his brethren had done, and of the pains that they had endured,

16 He said, Shall we find such another man? now therefore we will make him our friend and confederate.

17 Upon this he wrote a letter, and sent it unto him, according to these words, saying,

18 King Alexander to his brother Jonathan, sendeth greeting.

19 We have heard of thee, that thou art a man of great power, and meet to be our friend.

20 Wherefore now this day we ordain thee to be the high priest of thy nation, and to be called the king's friend (and therewithal he sent him a purple robe and a crown of gold) and *require thee* to take our part, and keep friendship with us.

21 So in the seventh month of the hundred and sixtieth year, at the feast of the tabernacles, Jonathan put on the holy robe, and gathered together forces, and provided much armour.

22 Whereof when Demetrius heard, he was very sorry, and said,

23 What have we done, that Alexander hath

6 *He commanded also that the hostages, &c.* Namely, those which Bacchides had put there, according to what we find in verse 53 of the preceding chapter, by way of check upon their parents and kindred, out of fear of what should be done to them upon any revolt.

11 *Mount Sion.* By Mount Sion is here meant the whole city of Jerusalem, except the tower or fortress, and

the temple, the Macedonian garrison still keeping possession of the tower.

14 *It was their place of refuge.* This Bethsura seems to have been a place of general rendezvous of the apostate Jews, where they lived in open contempt of the law.

21 *Jonathan put on the holy robe, &c.* Namely, the robe of the high priest.

hath prevented us, in making amity with the Jews to strengthen himself?

24 I also will write unto them words of encouragement, and promise them dignities and gifts, that I may have their aid.

25 He sent unto them therefore, to this effect: King Demetrius unto the people of the Jews, sendeth greeting.

26 Whereas you have kept covenants with us, and continued in our friendship, not joining yourselves with our enemies, we have heard hereof, and are glad.

27 Wherefore now continue ye still to be faithful unto us, and we will well recompense you for all things you do in our behalf,

28 And will grant you many immunities, and give you rewards.

29 And now do I free you, and for your sake I release all the Jews from tributes, and from the customs of salt, and from crown-taxes,

30 And from that which appertaineth unto me to receive for the third part of the seed, and the half of the fruit of the trees, I release it from this day forth, so that they shall not be taken of the land of Judea, nor of the three governments which are added thereunto out of the country of Samaria, and Galilee, from this day forth for evermore.

31 Let Jerusalem also be holy and free, with the borders thereof, both from tenths and tributes.

32 And as for the tower, which is at Jerusalem, I yield up my authority over it, and give it to the high priest, that he may set in it such men as he shall choose to keep it.

33 Moreover, I freely set at liberty every one of the Jews that were carried cap-

tives out of the land of Judea, into any part of my kingdom, and I will that all my officers remit their tributes, even of their cattle.

34 Furthermore, I will that all the feasts and sabbaths, and new-moons, and solemn days, and the three days before the feast, and the three days after the feast, shall be all days of immunity, and freedom for all the Jews in my realm.

35 Also no man shall have authority to meddle with them, or to molest any of them in any matter.

36 I will further, that there be enrolled amongst the king's forces about thirty thousand men of the Jews, unto whom pay shall be given as belongeth to all the king's forces.

37 And of them some shall be placed in the king's strong holds, of whom also some shall be set over the affairs of the kingdom, which are of trust: and I will that their overseers and governors be of themselves, and that they live after their own laws, even as the king hath commanded in the land of Judea.

38 And concerning the three governments that are added to Judea, from the country of Samaria, let them be joined with Judea, that they may be reckoned to be under one, nor bound to obey other authority than the high priests.

39 As for Ptolemais, and the land pertaining thereto, I give it as a free gift to the sanctuary at Jerusalem, for the necessary expences of the sanctuary.

40 Moreover I give every year fifteen thousand shekels of silver out of the king's accounts from the places appertaining.

3 Y

41 And

29 *The customs of salt, &c.*] By the customs of salt seems to be meant, the acknowledgment paid to the king for all the salt taken out of the salt pits in Judea; by crown taxes, the crowns of gold which the Jews usually presented every year to the kings they were subject to.

31 *Let Jerusalem be also holy and free.*] i. e. It shall never be subject to receive any foreign garrison. By tenths and

tributes in this verse seems to be meant, an exemption from all taxes paid to the king.

37 *Live.*] Greek, Walk.

39 *Of the sanctuary.*] Margin, Of the holy things.

40 *Out of the king's accounts.*] i. e. From the revenues arising from the royal lands.



41 And all the overplus which the officers payed not in, as in former time, from henceforth shall be given towards the works of the temple.

42 And besides this, the five thousand shekels of silver, which they took from the uses of the temple, out of the accounts year by year, even those things shall be released, because they appertain to the priests that minister.

43 And whosoever they be that flee unto the temple at Jerusalem, or be within the liberties thereof, being indebted unto the king, or for any other matter, let them be at liberty, and all that they have in my realm.

44 For the building also, and repairing of the works of the sanctuary, expences shall be given of the king's accounts.

45 Yea, and for the building of the walls of Jerusalem, and the fortifying thereof round about, expences shall be given out of the king's accounts, as also for the building of the walls in Judea.

46 Now when Jonathan and the people heard these words, they gave no credit unto them, nor received them, because they remembered the great evil that he had done in Israel; for he had afflicted them very fore.

47 But with Alexander they were well pleased, because he was the first that intreated of true peace with them, and they were confederate with him always.

48 Then gathered king Alexander great forces, and camped over against Demetrius.

49 And after the two kings had joined battle, Demetrius host fled: but Alexander followed after him, and prevailed against them.

50 And he continued the battle very fore until the sun went down, and that day was Demetrius slain.

51 Afterward Alexander sent ambassadors to Ptolemee king of Egypt, with a message to this effect:

52 Forasmuch as I am come again to my realm, and am set in the throne of my progenitors, and have gotten the dominion, and overthrown Demetrius, and recovered our country,

53 (For after I had joined battle with him, both he and his host was discomfited by us, so that we sit in the throne of his kingdom.)

54 Now therefore let us make a league of amity together, and give me now thy daughter to wife: and I will be thy son in law, and will give both thee and her gifts, according to thy dignity.

55 Then Ptolemee the king gave answer, saying, Happy be the day wherein thou didst return into the land of thy fathers, and sattest in the throne of their kingdom.

56 And now will I do to thee, as thou hast written: meet me therefore at Ptolemais, that we may see one another, for I will marry my daughter to thee according to thy desire.

57 So Ptolemee went out of Egypt with his daughter Cleopatra, and they came unto Ptolemais in the hundred threescore and second year:

58 Where king Alexander meeting him, gave unto him his daughter Cleopatra, and celebrated her marriage at Ptolemais with great glory, as the manner of kings is.

59 Now king Alexander had written unto Jonathan, that he should come and meet him.

60 Who

41 *All the overplus which the officers paid not in, &c.]* This seems to be a grant, that all the arrears which were due from the collectors of the taxes and tributes, should be paid in for the use of the temple.

58 *Where king Alexander meeting him, gave unto him, &c.]* This is so ungrammatically expressed, that it int mates as if Alexander gave his daughter to Ptolemais; whereas quite the contrary is meant.

60 Who thereupon went honourably to Ptolemais, where he met the two kings, and gave them and their friends silver and gold, and many presents, and found favour in their fight.

61 At that time certain pestilent fellows of Israel, men of a wicked life, assembled themselves against him, to accuse him: but the king would not hear them.

62 Yea more than that, the king commanded to take off his garments, and clothe him in purple: and they did so.

63 Also he made him sit by himself, and said unto his princes, Go with him into the midst of the city, and make proclamation, that no man complain against him of any matter, and that no man trouble him for any manner of cause.

64 Now when his accusers saw that he was honoured according to the proclamation, and clothed in purple, they fled all away.

65 So the king honoured him, and wrote him amongst his chief friends, and made him a duke, and partaker of his dominion.

66 Afterward Jonathan returned to Jerusalem with peace and gladness.

67 Furthermore in the hundred threescore and fifth year, came Demetrius son of Demetrius, out of Crete into the land of his fathers:

68 Whereof when king Alexander heard tell, he was right sorry, and returned into Antioch.

69 Then Demetrius made Apollonius the governor of Celosyria his general, who ga-

thered together a great host, and camped in Jamnia, and sent unto Jonathan the high priest, saying,

70 Thou alone liftest up thyself against us, and I am laughed to scorn for thy sake, and reproached, and why dost thou vaunt thy power against us in the mountains?

71 Now therefore if thou trustest in thine own strength, come down to us into the plain field, and there let us try the matter together: for with me is the power of the cities.

72 Ask and learn who I am, and the rest that take our part, and they shall tell thee that thy foot is not able to stand before our face; for thy fathers have been twice put to flight in their own land.

73 Wherefore now thou shalt not be able to abide the horsemen, and so great a power in the plain, where is neither stone nor flint, nor place to flee unto.

74 So when Jonathan heard these words of Apollonius, he was moved in his mind, and choosing ten thousand men, he went out of Jerusalem, where Simon his brother met him for to help him.

75 And he pitched his tents against Joppe: but they of Joppe shut him out of the city, because Apollonius had a garrison there.

76 Then Jonathan laid siege unto it: whereupon they of the city let him in for fear: and so Jonathan wan Joppe.

77 Whereof when Apollonius heard, he took three thousand horsemen, with a great host of footmen, and went to Azotus as one that

63 *That no man complain against him of any matter, &c.*] What seems to be meant here is, that he should not be spoken against on account of the difference of his religion from that of the Grecians.

65 *Partaker of his dominion.*] Margin, Governor of a province.

70 *I am laughed to scorn for thy sake, &c.*] I am decided for waging war so long with such a handful of people, without bringing it to an issue.

73 *Where is neither stone nor flint, &c.*] Where there is

no cave to retreat to; where the battle must be fought with warlike weapons, and not with stones. The Jews were wont, from their mountainous retreats, to annoy and keep off the enemy, by hurling down huge stones upon them.

77 *Went to Azotus as one that journeyed.*] Or, as though he intended only to pass through it.

—*Drew him forth.*] Margin, Led his company into the plain. Having a great number of horsemen, the plain was the most proper place for him to engage in.



that journeyed, and therewithal drew him forth into the plain, because he had a great number of horsemen, in whom he put his trust.

78 Then Jonathan followed after him to Azotus, where the armies joined battle.

79 Now Apollonius had left a thousand horsemen in ambush.

80 And Jonathan knew that there was an ambushment behind him; for they had compassed in his host, and cast darts at the people, from morning till evening.

81 But the people stood still, as Jonathan had commanded them: and so the enemies horses were tired.

82 Then brought Simon forth his host, and set them against the footmen (for the horsemen were spent) who were discomfited by him, and fled.

83 The horsemen also being scattered in the field, fled to Azotus, and went into Bethdagon, their idol's temple, for safety,

84 But Jonathan set fire on Azotus, and the cities round about it, and took their spoils; and the temple of Dagon, with them that were fled into it, he burnt with fire.

85 Thus there were burnt and slain with the sword, well nigh eight thousand men.

86 And from thence Jonathan removed his host, and camped against Ascalon, where the men of the city came forth, and met him with great pomp.

87 After this returned Jonathan and his host unto Jerusalem, having many spoils.

88 Now when king Alexander heard these things, he honoured Jonathan yet more,

89 And sent him a buckle of gold, as the use is to be given to such as are of the king's blood: he gave him also Accaron, with the borders thereof, in possession.

#### CHAP. XI.

12 Ptoleus taketh away his daughter from Alexander, and entereth upon his kingdom.

17 Alexander is slain, and Ptoleus dieth within three days. 20 Jonathan besiegeth the tower at Jerusalem. 26 The Jews and he are much honoured by Demetrius, 48 who is rescued by the Jews from his own subjects in Antioch. 57 Antiochus the younger honoureth Jonathan: 61 His exploits in divers places.

AND the king of Egypt gathered together a great host, like the sand that lieth upon the sea-shore, and many ships, and went about through deceit to get Alexander's kingdom, and join it to his own.

2 Whereupon he took his journey into Syria in peaceable manner, so as they of the cities opened unto him, and met him: for king Alexander had commanded them so to do, because he was his father in law.

3 Now as Ptolemee entered into the cities, he set in every one of them a garrison of soldiers to keep it.

4 And when he came near to Azotus, they shewed him the temple of Dagon that was burnt, and Azotus and the suburbs thereof that were destroyed, and the bodies that were cast abroad, and them that he had burnt in the battle, for they had made heaps of them by the way where he should pass.

5 Also

81 *The people stood still, &c.*] The meaning seems to be, that Jonathan ordered his men to stand upon the defence only, with their shields held close to one another over their heads, so that the enemies darts fell only upon their shields, without wounding the soldiers, till at length the enemies horse grew faint with being so long in the field. Josephus's Antiquities, B. 13. ch. 8.

87 *After this returned, &c.*] Thus the divine Providence

brought about the good of the Jews, through the competition of Demetrius and Alexander.

#### NOTES on Chap. XI.

Ver. 4. *Them that he had burnt in the battle, &c.*] The meaning is, them which Jonathan had destroyed by setting fire to Azotus, &c. as in the preceding chapter.

5 Also they told the king whatsoever Jonathan had done, to the intent he might blame him: but the king held his peace.

6 Then Jonathan met the king with great pomp at Joppe, where they saluted one another, and lodged.

7 Afterward Jonathan, when he had gone with the king to the river called Eleutherus, returned again to Jerusalem.

8 King Ptolemee therefore having gotten the dominion of the cities by the sea, unto Seleucia upon the sea-coast, imagined wicked councils against Alexander.

9 Whereupon he sent ambassadors unto king Demetrius, saying, Come, let us make a league betwixt us, and I will give thee my daughter whom Alexander hath, and thou shalt reign in thy father's kingdom:

10 For I repent that I gave my daughter unto him, for he sought to slay me.

11 Thus did he slander him, because he was desirous of his kingdom.

12 Wherefore he took his daughter from him, and gave her to Demetrius, and forsook Alexander, so that their hatred was openly known.

13 Then Ptolemee entered into Antioch, where he set two crowns upon his head, the crown of Asia and of Egypt.

14 In the mean season was king Alexander in Cilicia, because those that dwelt in those parts had revolted from him.

15 But when Alexander heard of this, he came to war against him: whereupon king Ptolemee brought forth *his host*, and

met him with a mighty power, and put him to flight.

16 So Alexander fled into Arabia, there to be defended: but king Ptolemee was exalted.

17 For Zabdiel the Arabian took off Alexander's head, and sent it unto Ptolemee.

18 King Ptolemee also died the third day after, and they that were in the strong holds, were slain one of another.

19 By this means Demetrius reigned in the hundred threescore and seventh year.

20 At the same time Jonathan gathered together them that were in Judea, to take the tower that was in Jerusalem: and he made many engines of war against it.

21 Then certain ungodly persons who hated their own people, went unto the king, and told him that Jonathan besieged the tower.

22 Whereof when he heard, he was angry, and immediately removing, he came to Ptolemais, and wrote unto Jonathan, that he should not lay siege to the tower, but come and speak with him at Ptolemais in great haste.

23 Nevertheless, Jonathan when he heard this, commanded to besiege it *still*: and he chose certain of the elders of Israel, and the priests, and put himself in peril;

24 And took silver and gold, and raiment, and divers presents besides, and went to Ptolemais unto the king, where he found favour in his sight.

25 And though certain ungodly men of  
3 Z. the

6 *And lodged.*] Margin, And slept.

12 *He took his daughter from him.*] It is likely that he desired his daughter Cleopatra to come to him upon some pretence or other, and then he detained her, obliging her to marry Demetrius: whereupon he openly avowed his designs upon Alexander, which till then he seems to have concealed.

14 *Alexander was in Cilicia, because those that dwelt in those parts had revolted from him.*] The sense is, The case was those in Syria, meant here "by those that dwelt in

"those parts," had revolted, and therefore he retired into Cilicia, which continued faithful to him, for safety: and thus Josephus relates it.

18 *Ptolemee also died the third day.*] Josephus, and other historians write, that he died of a grievous wound, which he received in his head in battle.

— *They that were in the strong holds.*] Margin, Those that were in the holds, were slain of those that were in the holds.



the people had made complaints against him,

26 Yet the king intreated him as his predecessors had done before, and promoted him in the sight of all his friends.

27 And confirmed him in the high-priesthood, and in all the honours that he had before, and gave him pre-eminence among his chief friends.

28 Then Jonathan desired the king that he would make Judea free from tribute, as also the three governments, with the country of Samaria; and he promised him three hundred talents.

29 So the king consented and wrote letters unto Jonathan of all these things, after this manner.

30 King Demetrius unto his brother Jonathan, and unto the nation of the Jews, sendeth greeting.

31 We send you here a copy of the letter which we did write unto our cousin Lasthenes concerning you, that you might see it.

32 King Demetrius unto his father Lasthenes, sendeth greeting.

33 We are determined to do good to the people of the Jews, who are our friends, and keep covenants with us, because of their good will towards us.

34 Wherefore we have ratified unto them the borders of Judea, with the three governments of Apherema, and Lydda, and Ramathem, that are added unto Judea, from the country of Samaria, and all things appertaining unto them, for all such as do sacrifice in Jerusalem, in stead of the payments which the king received of them yearly aforetime out of the fruits of the earth, and of trees.

35 And as for other things that belong

unto us, of the tithes and customs pertaining unto us, as also the salt pits, and the crown taxes, which are due unto us, we discharge them of them all for their relief.

36 And nothing hereof shall be revoked from this time forth for ever.

37 Now therefore see that thou make a copy of these things, and let it be delivered unto Jonathan, and set upon the holy mount in a conspicuous place.

38 After this, when king Demetrius saw that the land was quiet before him, and that no resistance was made against him, he sent away all his forces, every one to his own place, except certain bands of strangers, whom he had gathered from the isles of the heathen: wherefore all the forces of his father hated him.

39 Moreover, there was one Tryphon, that had been of Alexander's part afore, who seeing that all the host murmured against Demetrius, went to Simalcue the Arabian, that brought up Antiochus the young son of Alexander,

40 And lay fore upon him to deliver him *this young Antiochus*, that he might reign in his father's stead: he told him therefore all that Demetrius had done, and how his men of war were at enmity with him, and there he remained a long season.

41 In the mean time, Jonathan sent unto king Demetrius, that he would cast those of the tower out of Jerusalem, and those also in the fortresses: for they fought against Israel.

42 So Demetrius sent unto Jonathan, saying, I will not only do this for thee and thy people, but I will greatly honour thee and thy nation, if opportunity serve.

43 Now therefore thou shalt do well if thou

34 *Wherefore we have ratified unto them, &c.*] Joseph, Ant. b. 13. ch. 8.

41 *Cast these of the town out of Jerusalem, &c.*] i. e.

Withdraw all the Macedonian garrisons out of Judea, as they were guilty of excesses towards the inhabitants.

thou send me men to help me; for all my forces are gone from me.

44 Upon this Jonathan sent him three thousand strong men unto Antioch, and when they came to the king, the king was very glad of their coming.

45 Howbeit, they that were of the city gathered themselves together into the midst of the city, to the number of an hundred and twenty thousand men, and would have slain the king.

46 Wherefore the king fled into the court, but they of the city kept the passages of the city, and began to fight.

47 Then the king called to the Jews for help, who came unto him all at once, and dispersing themselves through the city, slew that day in the city to the number of an hundred thousand.

48 Also they set fire on the city, and gat many spoils that day, and delivered the king.

49 So when they of the city saw that the Jews had got the city as they would, their courage was abated: wherefore they made supplication to the king, and cried, saying,

50 Grant us peace, and let the Jews cease from assaulting us, and the city.

51 With that they cast away their weapons, and made peace, and the Jews were honoured in the sight of the king, and in the sight of all that were in his realm, and

they returned to Jerusalem, having great spoils.

52 So king Demetrius sat on the throne of his kingdom, and the land was quiet before him.

53 Nevertheless, he dissembled in all that ever he spake, and estranged himself from Jonathan, neither rewarded he him according to the benefits which he had received of him, but troubled him very sore.

54 After this returned Tryphon, and with him the young child Antiochus, who reigned and was crowned.

55 Then there gathered unto him all the men of war, whom Demetrius had put away, and they fought against Demetrius, who turned his back and fled.

56 Moreover, Tryphon took the elephants, and won Antioch.

57 At that time young Antiochus wrote unto Jonathan, saying, I confirm thee in the high priesthood, and appoint thee ruler over the four governments, and to be one of the king's friends.

58 Upon this he sent him golden vessels to be served in, and gave him leave to drink in gold, and to be clothed in purple, and to wear a golden buckle.

59 His brother Simon also he made captain from the place called the ladder of Tyrus, unto the borders of Egypt.

60 Then Jonathan went forth and passed through the cities beyond the water, and all

46 *They of the city kept the passages of the city, &c.]* Demetrius having retired into the securest part of his palace, was besieged, as it were, by the people, who kept possession of all the avenues from the palace to the city, that the king might neither escape, nor receive any assistance.

47 *Dispersing themselves through the city, slew that day, &c.]* This seems obscurely expressed: for it is not probable that three thousand men would have dispersed themselves among one hundred and twenty thousand of the enraged inhabitants. The case seems to have been this: the Jews, from the top of the royal palace, flung down stones and darts upon the multitude gathered beneath; by such means, and by setting some houses near the palace

on fire, which soon spread, as they were of wood, they slew so many of them.

50 *Grant us peace.]* Margin. Be friends with us.

56 *The elephants.]* Greek, Beasts.

58 *To be served in.]* Greek, And service.

59 *His brother Simon also he made a captain, &c.]* Namely, of all his forces, quartered from the boundary of Tyre to the borders of Egypt.

60 *Went forth and passed, &c.]* Margin reads, Went beyond the river, (i. e. Jordan) and passed through the cities; or, went and passed beyond the river, and through the cities.—By all the forces of Syria gathering themselves, is meant all the old standing forces of the kingdom of Syria, which Demetrius had before disbanded; these joined



all the forces of Syria gathered themselves unto him for to help him: and when he came to Ascalon, they of the city met him honourably.

61 From whence he went to Gaza, but they of Gaza shut him out; wherefore he laid siege unto it, and burned the suburbs thereof with fire, and spoiled them.

62 Afterward when they of Gaza made supplication unto Jonathan, he made peace with them, and took the sons of their chief men for hostages, and sent them to Jerusalem, and passed through the country unto Damascus.

63 Now when Jonathan heard that Demetrius princes were come to Cades which is in Galilee, with a great power, purposing to remove him out of the country,

64 He went to meet them, and left Simon his brother in the country.

65 Then Simon encamped against Bethfura, and fought against it a long season, and shut it up.

66 But they desired to have peace with him, which he granted them, and then put them out from thence, and took the city, and set a garrison in it.

67 As for Jonathan and his host, they pitched at the water of Geneser, from whence betimes in the morning they gat them to the plain of Nasor.

68 And behold, the host of strangers met them in the plain, who having laid men in ambush for him in the mountains, came themselves over against him.

69 So when they that lay in ambush rose

out of their places, and joined battle, all that were of Jonathan's side fled;

70 Inasmuch as there was not one of them left, except Mattathias the son of Abfalom, and Judas the son of Calphi, the captains of the host.

71 Then Jonathan rent his clothes, and cast earth upon his head, and prayed.

72 Afterwards turning again to battle, he put them to flight, and so they ran away.

73 Now when his own men that were fled saw this, they turned again unto him, and with him pursued them to Cades, even unto their own tents, and there they camped.

74 So there were slain of the heathen that day, about three thousand men: but Jonathan returned to Jerusalem.

#### C H A P. XII.

1 Jonathan reneweth his league with the Romans, and Lacedemonians. 28 The forces of Demetrius, thinking to surprize Jonathan, flee away for fear. 35 Jonathan fortifieth the castles in Judea, 48 and is shut up by the fraud of Tryphon in Ptolemais.

NOW when Jonathan saw that the time served him, he chose certain men, and sent them to Rome, for to confirm and renew the friendship that they had with them.

2 He sent letters also to the Lacedemonians, and to other places for the same purpose.

3 So they went unto Rome, and entered into

Jonathan, because he declared for the young Antiochus.

61 And burned the suburbs.] Margin, Or places thereabout.

62 He made peace with them.] Greek, He gave them the right hand.

63 To remove him out of the country.] Margin, To remove him from the affairs of the kingdom.

64 Left Simon his brother in the country.] To take care of the affairs of Judea.

68 The host of strangers met them in the plain.] By this is meant, Demetrius's army, as Josephus explains it, who having privately laid ambushes, marched forward to meet Jonathan.

#### NOTES on Chap. XII.

Ver. 1 That the time served him.] Namely, that his affairs succeeded well, he sent an embassy to Rome, in or-

into the senate, and said, Jonathan the high priest, and the people of the Jews sent us unto you, to the end you should renew the friendship which you had with them, and league, as in former time.

4 Upon this, *the Romans gave them letters* unto the governors of every place, that they should bring them into the land of Judea peaceably.

5 And this is the copy of the letters which Jonathan wrote unto the Lacedemonians :

6 Jonathan the high priest, and the elders of the nation, and the priests, and the other people of the Jews, unto the Lacedemonians their brethren, send greeting.

7 There were letters sent in times past unto Onias the high priest from Darius, who reigned then among you, to signify that you are our brethren, as the copy here under-written doth specify.

8 At which time Onias intreated the ambassador that was sent honourably, and received the letters, wherein declaration was made of the league and friendship.

9 Therefore we also, albeit we need none of these things, for that we have the holy books of scripture in our hands to comfort us,

10 Have nevertheless attempted to send unto you, for the renewing of brotherhood and friendship, lest we should become strangers unto you altogether: for there is

a long time passed since you sent unto us.

11 We therefore at all times without ceasing, both in our feasts, and other convenient days, do remember you in the sacrifices which we offer, and in our prayers, as reason is, and as it becometh us to think upon our brethren.

12 And we are right glad of your honour.

13 As for ourselves we have had great troubles and wars on every side, forso much as the kings that are round about us, have fought against us.

14 Howbeit we would not be troublesome unto you, nor to others of our confederates and friends in these wars.

15 For we have help from heaven that succoureth us, so as we are delivered from our enemies, and our enemies are brought under foot.

16 For this cause we chose Numenius *the son* of Antiochus, and Antipater *the son* of Jason, and sent them unto the Romans, to renew the amity that we had with them, and the former league.

17 We commanded them also to go unto you, and to salute you, and to deliver you our letters concerning the renewing of our brotherhood.

18 Wherefore now ye shall do well to give us an answer thereto.

19 And this is the copy of the letters which Oniars sent.

4 A

20 Arcus

der to strengthen the alliance which had been formerly made between the two nations, as ch. viii.

7 *From Darius, &c.*] This ought to be read, "From Arcus, who then reigned among you;" for so Josephus has it; as also Livy, and Pausanias, since no Darius reigned among the Lacedemonians.

8 *League and friendship.*] Or, kindred. *Jos. Antiq.*

9 *Therefore we also, albeit we need none of these things.*] The sense of this verse, as Josephus explains it, is, That Jonathan wrote the Lacedemonians word, that he was convinced of the kindred between them, without any testimony of theirs from the holy scriptures; in which he learned that they were descended from different branches of the same progenitors. The Lacedemonians are sup-

posed to have derived their origin from the descendants of Abraham by Keturah. What is rendered in this verse to comfort us, may be rendered, to instruct us.

11 *We do remember you in the sacrifices which we offer, &c.*] The Jews did not hold it lawful to offer up prayers for men of other religions; but usually did it for all those with whom they were in friendship.

12 *We are right glad of your honour.*] The Lacedemonians were at that time in friendship with the Romans, and in a very flourishing condition.

19 *This is the copy of the letters which Oniars sent.*] This ought to be read as it stands in Josephus: "This is the copy of the letters (letter) which Arcus sent to Onias."



20 Arcus king of the Lacedemonians, to Onias the high priest, greeting.

21 It is found in writing, that the Lacedemonians and Jews are brethren, and that they are of the stock of Abraham.

22 Now therefore since this is come to our knowledge, you shall do well to write unto us of your prosperity.

23 We do write back again to you, that your cattle and goods are ours, and ours are yours. We do command therefore our ambassadors to make report unto you on this wise.

24 Now when Jonathan heard that Demetrius princes were come to fight against him with a greater host than afore,

25 He removed from Jerusalem, and met them in the land of Amathis: for he gave them no respite to enter his country.

26 He sent spies also unto their tents, who came again, and told him that they were appointed to come upon them in the night-season.

27 Wherefore so soon as the sun was down, Jonathan commanded his men to watch, and to be in arms, that all the night long they might be ready to fight: also he sent forth centinels round about the host.

28 But when the adversaries heard that Jonathan and his men were ready for battle, they feared, and trembled in their hearts, and they kindled fires in their camp.

29 Howbeit Jonathan and his company

knew it not till the morning: for they saw the lights burning.

30 Then Jonathan pursued after them, but overtook them not: for they were gone over the river Eleutherus.

31 Wherefore Jonathan turned to the Arabians, who were called Zabadeans, and smote them, and took their spoils.

32 And removing thence, he came to Damascus, and so passed through all the country.

33 Simon also went forth, and passed through the country unto Ascalon, and the holds there adjoining, from whence he turned aside to Joppe, and wan it.

34 For he had heard that they would deliver the hold unto them that took Demetrius part, wherefore he set a garrison there to keep it.

35 After this came Jonathan home again, and calling the elders of the people together, he consulted with them about building strong holds in Judea,

36 And making the walls of Jerusalem higher, and raising a great mount between the tower and the city, for to separate it from the city, that so it might be alone, that men might neither sell nor buy in it.

37 Upon this they came together, to build up the city, forasmuch as part of the wall toward the brook on the east-side was fallen down, and they repaired that which was called Caphenatha.

38 Simon also set up Adida, in Sephela,

22 *Of your prosperity.*] Greek, Peace.

23 *Your cattle and goods are ours, and ours are yours.*] We will mutually assist each other with all our power, and act as if we were but one people; each revenging the injury done to the other, as if done to themselves.

25 *To enter his country.*] Margin, To set foot in his country, or to invade his country.

26 *They were appointed to come upon them in the night-season.*] This the spies learned of some which they took prisoners in their returning to Jonathan, as Josephus informs us.

28 *They kindled fires in their camp.*] *Jos. Antiq. lib. xiii. ch. 9.*—Thinking Jonathan had a design to attack them,

they left their camp; but lighted up fires in it, in order to conceal their departure.

31 *Who were called Zabadeans.*] Greek, Nabatheans, or Zabatheans.

36 *Raising a great mount between the tower and the city, &c.*] He proposed to build such a high wall between the tower and the city of Jerusalem as should cut off all communication; so that none should be able to bring the garrison any provisions from the city.

37 *Forasmuch as part of the wall, &c.*] Or, according to the Roman reading, "And he came near to the wall of the brook, toward the east."

phela, and made it strong with gates and bars.

39 Now Tryphon went about to get the kingdom of Asia, and to kill Antiochus the king, that he might set the crown upon his own head.

40 Howbeit, he was afraid that Jonathan would not suffer him, and that he would fight against him, wherefore he sought a way how to take Jonathan, that he might kill him. So he removed, and came to Bethsan.

41 Then Jonathan went out to meet him with forty thousand men chosen for the battle, and came to Bethsan.

42 Now when Tryphon saw that Jonathan came with so great a force, he durst not stretch his hand against him.

43 But received him honourably, and commended him unto all his friends, and gave him gifts, and commanded his men of war to be as obedient unto him, as to himself.

44 Unto Jonathan also he said, Why hast thou put all this people to so great trouble, seeing there is no war betwixt us?

45 Therefore send them now home again, and choose a few men to wait on thee, and come thou with me to Ptolemais, for I will give it thee, and the rest of the strong holds and forces, and all that have any charge: as for me, I will return and depart: for this is the cause of my coming.

46 So Jonathan believing him, did as he bade him, and sent away his host, who went into the land of Judea.

47 And with himself he retained but three thousand men, of whom he sent two

thousand into Galilee, and one thousand went with him.

48 Now as soon as Jonathan entered into Ptolemais, they of Ptolemais shut the gates, and took him, and all them that came with him, they slew with the sword.

49 Then sent Tryphon an host of footmen and horsemen into Galilee, and into the great plain, to destroy all Jonathan's company.

50 But when they knew that Jonathan, and they that were with him, were taken and slain, they encouraged one another, and went close together, prepared to fight.

51 They therefore that followed upon them, perceiving that they were ready to fight for their lives, turned back again.

52 Whereupon they all came into the land of Judea peaceably, and there they bewailed Jonathan, and them that were with him, and they were sore afraid, wherefore all Israel made great lamentation.

53 Then all the heathen that were round about them, sought to destroy them: for, said they, they have no captain, nor any to help them: now therefore let us make war upon them, and take away their memorial from amongst men.

### C H A P. XIII.

8 Simon is made captain in his brother Jonathan's room. 19 Tryphon getteth two of Jonathan's sons into his hands, and slayeth their father. 27 The tomb of Jonathan. 36 Simon is favoured by Demetrius, 40 and winneth Gaza, and the tower at Jerusalem.

**N**OW when Simon heard that Tryphon had gathered together a great host,

thousand in Galilee.

50 When they knew that Jonathan, and they that were with him, were taken and slain, &c.] Fame reported more than was true; for it appears from the next chapter, that Jonathan was not slain at this time.

45 Come thou with me to Ptolemais, for I will give it thee, &c.] This was one of the four governments which Antiochus, or Tryphon for him, had promised to give Jonathan, ch. xi. 57.

47 He sent two thousand into Galilee.] Greek, Left two



host, to invade the land of Judea, and destroy it.

2 And saw that the people was in great trembling and fear, he went up to Jerusalem, and gathered the people together,

3 And gave them exhortation, saying, Ye yourselves know what great things I and my brethren, and my father's house have done for the laws and the sanctuary, the battles also and troubles which we have seen.

4 By reason whereof all my brethren are slain for Israel's sake, and I am left alone.

5 Now therefore be it far from me, that I should spare mine own life in any time of trouble: for I am no better than my brethren.

6 Doubtless I will avenge my nation and the sanctuary, and our wives and our children: for all the heathen are gathered to destroy us of very malice.

7 Now as soon as the people heard these words, their spirit revived.

8 And they answered with a loud voice, saying, Thou shalt be our leader in stead of Judas and Jonathan thy brother.

9 Fight thou our battles, and whatsoever thou commandest us, that will we do.

10 So then he gathered together all the men of war, and made haste to finish the walls of Jerusalem, and he fortified it round about.

11 Also he sent Jonathan the son of Abisalom, and with him a great power to Joppe: who casting out them that were therein, remained there in it.

12 So Tryphon removed from Ptole-

mais with a great power to invade the land of Judea, and Jonathan was with him in ward.

13 But Simon pitched his tents at Adida, over against the plain.

14 Now when Tryphon knew that Simon was risen up instead of his brother Jonathan, and meant to join battle with him, he sent messengers unto him, saying,

15 Whereas we have Jonathan thy brother in hold, it is for money that he is owing unto the king's treasure, concerning the business that was committed unto him.

16 Wherefore now send an hundred talents of silver, and two of his sons for hostages, that when he is at liberty he may not revolt from us, and we will let him go.

17 Hereupon Simon, albeit he perceived that they spake deceitfully unto him, yet sent he the money and the children, lest peradventure he should procure to himself great hatred of the people:

18 Who might have said, Because I sent him not the money and the children, therefore is Jonathan dead.

19 So he sent them the children and the hundred talents: howbeit, Tryphon disssembled, neither would he let Jonathan go.

20 And after this came Tryphon to invade the land and destroy it, going round about by the way that leadeth unto Adora: but Simon and his host marched against him in every place wheresoever he went.

21 Now they that were in the tower, sent messengers unto Tryphon, to the end that he should hasten his coming unto them by the wilderness, and send them victuals.

22 Where-

### NOTES on Chap. XIII.

Ver 11 *Casting out them that were therein, &c.*] They ejected all the inhabitants, as being inclined to Tryphon's interest: so that only the Jewish garrison, which had been placed there before, ver. 34. of the preceding chapter, and those which went at this time, remained in the town.

15 *Concerning the business that was committed unto him.*] Margin, Or, the offices which he had; or, the necessary uses which he had;

21 *They that were in the tower sent messengers, &c.*] Namely, the tower of Jerusalem; the garrison of which were greatly in want of provisions, by reason of the wall erected, ver. 36. of the foregoing chapter.

22 Wherefore Tryphon made ready all his horsemen to come that night, but there fell a very great snow, by reason whereof he came not. So he departed and came into the country of Galaad.

23 And when he came near to Bascama, he slew Jonathan, who was buried there.

24 Afterward Tryphon returned, and went into his own land.

25 Then sent Simon and took the bones of Jonathan his brother, and buried them in Modin the city of his fathers.

26 And all Israel made great lamentation for him, and bewailed him many days.

27 Simon also built a monument upon the sepulchre of his father, and his brethren, and raised it aloft to the sight, with hewn stone behind and before.

28 Moreover, he set up seven pyramids, one against another, for his father and his mother, and his four brethren.

29 And in these he made cunning devices, about the which he set great pillars, and upon the pillars he made all their armour for a perpetual memory, and by the armour ships carved, that they might be seen of all that sail on the sea.

30 This is the sepulchre which he made at Modin, and it standeth yet unto this day.

31 Now Tryphon dealt deceitfully with the young king Antiochus, and slew him.

32 And he reigned in his stead, and

crowned himself king of Asia, and brought a great calamity upon the land.

33 Then Simon built up the strong holds in Judea, and fenced them about with high towers, and great walls, and gates, and bars, and laid up victuals therein.

34 Moreover, Simon chose men, and sent to king Demetrius, to the end he should give the land an immunity, because all that Tryphon did was to spoil.

35 Unto whom king Demetrius answered, and wrote after this manner :

36 King Demetrius unto Simon the high priest, and friend of kings, as also unto the elders and nation of the Jews, sendeth greeting,

37 The golden crown, and the scarlet robe which ye sent unto us, we have received : and we are ready to make a steadfast peace with you, yea, and to write unto our officers, to confirm the immunities which we have granted.

38 And whatsoever covenants we have made with you, shall stand ; and the strong holds which ye have builded, shall be your own.

39 As for any oversight or fault committed unto this day, we forgive it, and the crown-tax also which ye owe us : and if there were any other tribute paid in Jerusalem, it shall no more be paid.

40 And look who are meet among you to be in our court, let them be enrolled,

4 B

and

29 *About the which he set great pillars, &c.*] He made a portico of pillars, each one entire stone, as Josephus relates, who says they were all standing in his time ; he also hung their armour upon these pillars, a thing customary then to set great men's armour over their sepulchres, unless representatives of them were cut in the stone, as the words seem to insinuate ; and also ships were carved upon them, as having dominion over the maritime coasts, ch. xi. ver. 59.

34 *Simon chose men, and sent to king Demetrius, &c.*] This should be rendered, he had chosen men, and sent them to Demetrius, before the latter had been made prisoner by the Parthians.

*All that Tryphon did was to spoil.*] The Greek reads, All

Tryphon's doings were robberies.

39 *If there were any other tribute.*] By this seems to be meant, the tax paid upon all things that were either brought into, or carried out of Jerusalem, which by this edict was remitted.

40 *Look who are meet among you to be in our court, &c.*] Though this seems to signify some higher honour than being admitted as soldiers into the king's service, and receiving his pay, yet the original means no more ; and this was accounted a great privilege, as may be concluded from ch. x. ver. 36. There it is confined to a certain number, but here it is extended to as many as were qualified for it.



and let there be peace betwixt us.

41 Thus the yoke of the heathen was taken away from Israel, in the hundred and seventieth year.

42 Then the people of Israel began to write in their instruments and contracts, In the first year of Simon the high priest, the governor and leader of the Jews.

43 In those days Simon camped against Gaza, and besieged it round about; he made also an engine of war, and set it by the city, and battered a certain tower, and took it.

44 And they that were in the engine, leapt into the city; whereupon there was a great uproar in the city:

45 Inasmuch as the people of the city rent their clothes, and climbed upon the walls with their wives and children, and cried with a loud voice, beseeching Simon to grant them peace.

46 And they said, Deal not with us according to our wickedness, but according to thy mercy.

47 So Simon was appeased towards them, and fought no more against them, but put them out of the city, and cleansed the houses wherein the idols were: and so entered into it with songs and thanksgiving.

48 Yea, he put all uncleanness out of it, and placed such men there, as would keep the law, and made it stronger than it was before, and built therein a dwelling-place for himself.

49 They also of the tower in Jerusalem

were kept so strait, that they could neither come forth, nor go into the country, nor buy, nor sell: wherefore they were in great distress for want of victuals, and a great number of them perished through famine.

50 Then cried they to Simon, beseeching him to be at one with them; which thing he granted them, and when he had put them out from thence, he cleansed the tower from pollutions.

51 And entered into it the three and twentieth day of the second month, in the hundred seventy and one year, with thanksgiving and branches of palm-trees, and with harps, and cymbals, and with viols, and hymns, and songs: because there was destroyed a great enemy out of Israel.

52 He ordained also that that day should be kept every year with gladness. Moreover, the hill of the temple, that was by the tower he made stronger than it was, and there he dwelt himself with his company.

53 And when Simon saw that John his son was a valiant man, he made him captain of all the hosts, and he dwelt in Gazara.

#### CHAP. XIV.

3 *Demetrius is taken by the king of Persia.*

4 *The good deeds of Simon to his country.*

18 *The Lacedemonians and Romans renew their league with him.* 26 *A memorial of his acts is set up in Sion.*

**N**OW in the hundred threescore and twelfth year, king Demetrius gathered his forces together and went into Media,

41 *In the hundred and seventieth year.]* i. e. Reckoning from the year in which Seleucus began his reign, the Jews began to act as a free people, and not to pay tribute to any foreign prince.

45 *To grant them peace.]* The Greek is, To give them his right hand.

48 *He put all uncleanness out of it.]* All kind of idolatrous worship, and every thing belonging to it.

50 *To be at one with them.]* Margin, To make peace with them.

52 *The hill of the temple, &c.]* By this is meant, the temple itself, which Simon made stronger, as Josephus informs us, by throwing down the tower, and that part of the mountain which commanded the temple.

#### NOTES on Chap. XIV.

Ver. 1 *In the hundred threescore and twelfth year, &c.]* Here the history goes back, with regard to the affairs of Demetrius; for now the writer relates those things which happened to him before Tryphon murdered Antiochus,

Media, to get him help to fight against Tryphon.

2 But when Arsaces, the king of Persia and Media, heard that Demetrius was entered within his borders, he sent one of his princes to take him alive.

3 Who went and smote the host of Demetrius, and took him, and brought him to Arsaces, by whom he was put in ward.

4 As for the land of Judea, that was quiet all the days of Simon; for he sought the good of his nation in such wise, as that evermore his authority and honour pleased them well.

5 And as he was honourable in all his acts, so in this, that he took Joppe for an haven, and made an entrance to the isles of the sea,

6 And enlarged the bounds of his nation, and recovered the country,

7 And gathered together a great number of captives, and had the dominion of Gazara, and Bethsura, and the tower, out of the which he took all uncleanness, neither was there any that resisted him.

8 Then did they till their ground in peace, and the earth gave her increase, and the trees of the field their fruit.

9 The ancient men sat all in the streets, communing together of good things, and the young men put on glorious and warlike apparel.

10 He provided victuals for the cities, and set in them all manner of munition, so that his honourable name was renowned unto the end of the world.

11 He made peace in the land, and Is-

rael rejoiced with great joy;

12 For every man sat under his vine, and his fig-tree, and there was none to fray them:

13 Neither was there any left in the land to fight against them: yea, the kings themselves were overthrown in those days.

14 Moreover, he strengthened all those of his people that were brought low: the law he searched out, and every contemner of the law, and wicked person, he took away.

15 He beautified the sanctuary, and multiplied the vessels of the temple.

16 Now when it was heard at Rome, and as far as Sparta, that Jonathan was dead, they were very sorry.

17 But as soon as they heard that his brother Simon was made high priest in his stead, and ruled the country, and the cities therein:

18 They wrote unto him in tables of brass, to renew the friendship and league which they had made with Judas and Jonathan his brethren:

19 Which writings were read before the congregation at Jerusalem.

20 And this is the copy of the letters that the Lacedemonians sent, The rulers of the Lacedemonians, with the city, unto Simon the high priest, and the elders and priests, and residue of the people of the Jews, our brethren, send greeting.

21 The ambassadors that were sent unto our people, certified us of your glory and honour, wherefore we are glad of their coming.

22 And

and seized upon his kingdom; but omitted to speak of them in their proper place, that he might not break the thread of his history with regard to the Jews.

7 Gathered together a great number of captives, &c.] i. e. He at various times made several captives.

9 Of good things.] Margin, Of the wealth of the land.

14 The law be searched out, &c.] He had regard to the law, and took care to make it respected.

20 The rulers of the Lacedemonians, with the city, &c.] i. e. The magistracy and people: for after Cleomenes, the Lacedemonians had no king.



22 And did register the things that they spake in the council of the people, in this manner, Numenius son of Antiochus, and Antipater son of Jason, the Jews ambassadors, came unto us to renew the friendship they had with us.

23 And it pleased the people to entertain the men honourably, and to put the copy of their ambassage in public records, to the end the people of the Lacedemonians might have a memorial thereof: furthermore, we have written a copy thereof unto Simon the high priest.

24 After this, Simon sent Numenius to Rome, with a great shield of gold of a thousand pound weight, to confirm the league with them.

25 Whereof when the people heard, they said, What thanks shall we give to Simon and his sons?

26 For he and his brethren and the house of his father have established Israel, and chased away in fight their enemies from them, and confirmed their liberty.

27 So then they wrote it in the tables of brass, which they set upon pillars in mount Sion: and this is the copy of the writing, The eighteenth day of the month Elul, in the hundred threescore and twelfth year, being the third year of Simon the high priest,

28 At Saramael in the great congregation of the priests and people, and rulers of the nation, and elders of the country, were these things notified unto us.

29 For so much as oftentimes there have been wars in the country, wherein for the

maintenance of their sanctuary, and the law, Simon the son of Mattathias, of the posterity of Jarib, together with his brethren, put themselves in jeopardy, and resisting the enemies of their nation, did their nation great honour.

30 (For after that Jonathan having gathered his nation together, and been their high priest, was added to his people;

31 Their enemies purposed to invade their country, that they might destroy it, and lay hands on the sanctuary.

32 At which time Simon rose up, and fought for his nation, and spent much of his own substance, and armed the valiant men of his nation, and gave them wages,

33 And fortified the cities of Judea, together with Bethsura that lieth upon the borders of Judea, where the armour of the enemies had been before; but he set a garrison of Jews there.

34 Moreover, he fortified Joppe which lieth upon the sea, and Gazara that bordereth upon Azotus, where the enemies had dwelt before: but he placed Jews there, and furnished them with all things convenient for the reparation thereof.)

35 The people therefore seeing the acts of Simon, and unto what glory he thought to bring his nation, made him their governor and chief priest, because he had done all these things, and for the justice and faith which he kept to his nation, and for that he fought by all means to exalt his people.

36 For in his time things prospered in his hands, so that the heathen were taken out

22 In the council of the people.] Margin, In the public records.

28 At Saramael in the great congregation, &c.] Some think that Saramael is a corruption, and should be read, Jerusalem: others think that the common hall, where they used to meet upon public affairs, is meant here.

32 The valiant men.] Margin, The men of war.

33 The armour.] Margin, Weapons.

34 Gazara.] Margin, Gaza.

35 For the faith which he kept, &c.] For the fidelity which he exercised in governing his nation, not encroaching upon their liberty, or committing any act of oppression.

out of their country, and they also that were in the city of David in Jerusalem, who had made themselves a tower, out of which they issued and polluted all about the sanctuary, and did much hurt in the holy places :

37 But he placed Jews therein, and fortified it for the safety of his country, and the city, and raised up the walls of Jerusalem.

38 King Demetrius also confirmed him in the high priesthood, according to those things.

39 And made him one of his friends, and honoured him with great honour.

40 For he had heard say, that the Romans had called the Jews their friends, and confederates, and brethren, and that they had entertained the ambassadors of Simon honourably ;

41 Also that the Jews and priests were well pleased that Simon should be their governor and high priest for ever, until there should arise a faithful prophet.

42 Moreover that he should be their captain, and should take charge of the sanctuary, to set them over their works, and over the country, and over the armour, and over the fortresses, that (I say) he should take charge of the sanctuary ;

43 Besides this, that he should be obeyed of every man, and that all the writings in the country should be made in his name, and that he should be clothed in purple, and wear gold ;

44 Also that it should be lawful for none of the people or priests to break any of

these things, or to gainsay his words, or to gather an assembly in the country without him, or to be clothed in purple, or wear a buckle of gold.

45 And whosoever should do otherwise, or break any of these things, he should be punished.

46 Thus it liked all the people to deal with Simon, and to do as hath been said.

47 Then Simon accepted hereof, and was well pleased to be high priest, and captain, and governor of the Jews and priests, and to defend them all.

48 So they commanded that this writing should be put in tables of brass, and that they should be set up within the compass of the sanctuary, in a conspicuous place ;

49 Also that the copies thereof should be laid up in the treasury, to the end that Simon and his sons might have them.

#### C H A P. XV.

4 Antiochus desireth leave to pass through Judea, and granteth great honours to Simon and the Jews. 16 The Romans write to divers kings and nations to favour the Jews. 27 Antiochus quarrelleth with Simon, 38 and sendeth some to annoy Judea.

Moreover, Antiochus son of Demetrius the king, sent letters from the isles of the sea, unto Simon the priest, and prince of the Jews, and to all the people :

2 The contents whereof were these : King Antiochus to Simon the high priest, and prince of his nation, and to the people of the Jews, greeting.

3 Forasmuch as certain pestilent men  
4 C have

36 *Did much hurt in the holy places.*] Margin, Unto religion—They used to sally out, and kill those who went to, and came from the temple.

38 *King Demetrius also confirmed him in the high priesthood, according to those things.*] Namely, those things mentioned in the decree, or public act, made in honour of Simon.

41 *Well pleased that Simon should be their governor, &c.*] He and his posterity in the male line, until there arose one

worthy of credit, who, by his predictions and miracles, should prove himself to be a true prophet.

42 *That he should take charge of the sanctuary, &c.*] i. e. The chief inspection was given to him of all new works added to the temple, and of all repairs.

#### NOTES on Chap. XV.

Ver. 3 *Certain pestilent men.*] Alexander and Tryphon were the men he thus contemptuously speaks of.



have usurped the kingdom of our fathers, and my purpose is to challenge it again, that I may restore it to the old estate, and to that end have gathered a multitude of foreign soldiers together, and prepared ships of war;

4 My meaning also being to go through the country, that I may be avenged of them that have destroyed it, and made many cities in the kingdom desolate;

5 Now therefore I confirm unto thee all the oblations which the kings before me granted thee, and whatsoever gifts besides they granted.

6 I give thee leave also to coin money for thy country, with thine own stamp.

7 And as concerning Jerusalem, and the sanctuary, let them be free, and all the armour that thou hast made, and fortresses that thou hast built, and keepest in thine hands, let them remain unto thee.

8 And if any thing be, or shall be owing to the king, let it be forgiven thee from this time forth for evermore.

9 Furthermore when we have obtained our kingdom, we will honour thee, and thy nation, and thy temple with great honour, so that your honour shall be known throughout the world.

10 In the hundred threescore and fourteenth year went Antiochus into the land of his fathers: at which time all the forces came together unto him, so that few were left with Tryphon.

11 Wherefore being pursued by king Antiochus, he fled unto Dora, which lieth by the sea-side.

12 For he saw that troubles came upon him all at once, and that his forces had forsaken him.

13 Then camped Antiochus against Dora, having with him an hundred and twenty thousand men of war, and eight thousand horsemen.

14 And when he had compassed the city round about, and joined ships close to the town, on the sea-side, he vexed the city by land and by sea, neither suffered he any to go out or in.

15 In the mean season came Numerius, and his company from Rome, having letters to the kings and countries: wherein were written these things;

16 Lucius, consul of the Romans, unto king Ptolemee, greeting.

17 The Jews ambassadors, our friends and confederates, came unto us to renew the old friendship and league, being sent from Simon the high priest, and from the people of the Jews.

18 And they brought a shield of gold, of a thousand pound.

19 We thought it good therefore to write unto the kings and countries, that they should do them no harm, nor fight against them, their cities, or countries, nor yet aid their enemies against them.

20 It seemed also good to us to receive the shield of them.

21 If therefore there be any pestilent fellows, that have fled from their country unto you, deliver them unto Simon the high priest, that he may punish them according to their own law.

22 The same things wrote he likewise unto Demetrius the king, and Attalus, to Ariarathes, and Arsaces,

23 And to all the countries, and to Sampfames, and the Lacedemonians, and to Delus, and Myndus, and Sicyon, and Caria,

9 *We will honour thee—and thy temple, &c.*] By sending magnificent gifts to the temple.

10 *Into the land of his fathers.*] Namely, Upper Syria, as Josephus expresses it.

22 *The same things wrote he likewise unto Demetrius, &c.*] The letters were addressed to Demetrius, as being alive,

and upon the throne, when the ambassadors set out from Rome. Attalus was king of Pergamus, and Ariarathes, or Arathes, king of Cappadocia.

23 *To all the countries, &c.*] Namely, all in friendship with the Romans.

*To Sampfames.*] Margin, Sampfates, Latin, Lamsacus.

Caria, and Samos, and Pamphylia, and Lycia, and Halicarnassus, and Rhodus, and Phaselis, and Cos, and Side, and Aradus, and Gortyna, and Cnidus, and Cyprus, and Cyrene.

24 And the copy hereof they wrote to Simon the high priest.

25 So Antiochus the king camped against Dora the second day, assaulting it continually, and making engines, by which means he shut up Tryphon, that he could neither go out nor in.

26 At that time Simon sent him two thousand chosen men to aid him: silver also and gold, and much armour.

27 Nevertheless he would not receive them, but brake all the covenants which he had made with him afore, and became strange unto him.

28 Furthermore he sent unto him Athenobius, one of his friends, to commune with him, and say, You withhold Joppe and Gazara, with the tower that is in Jerusalem, which are cities of my realm.

29 The borders thereof ye have wasted, and done great hurt in the land, and got the dominion of many places within my kingdom.

30 Now therefore deliver the cities which ye have taken, and the tributes of the places whereof ye have gotten dominion without the borders of Judea;

31 Or else give me for them five hundred talents of silver; and for the harm that you have done, and the tributes of the cities, other five hundred talents: if not,

we will come and fight against you.

32 So Athenobius the king's friend came to Jerusalem: and when he saw the glory of Simon, and the cupboard of gold, and silver plate, and his great attendance, he was astonished, and told him the king's message.

33 Then answered Simon, and said unto him, We have neither taken other men's land, nor holden that which appertaineth to others, but the inheritance of our fathers, which our enemies had wrongfully in possession a certain time.

34 Wherefore we having opportunity, hold the inheritance of our fathers.

35 And whereas thou demandest Joppe and Gazara, albeit they did great harm unto the people in our country, yet will we give an hundred talents for them. Hereunto Athenobius answered him not a word.

36 But returned in a rage to the king, and made report unto him of these speeches, and of the glory of Simon, and of all that he had seen: whereupon the king was exceeding wroth.

37 In the mean time fled Tryphon by ship unto Orthosias.

38 Then the king made Cendebeus captain of the sea-coast, and gave him an host of footmen and horsemen,

39 And commanded him to remove his host toward Judea: also he commanded him to build up Cedron, and to fortify the gates, and to war against the people: but as for the king himself, he pursued Tryphon.

40 So Cendebeus came to Jamnia, and began

*Phaselis.] Or, Basilis.*

25 *Assaulting it.]* Geek, Bringing his forces to it.

27 *Brake all the covenants which he had made, &c.]* Josephus says, that Antiochus received the men and money which Simon sent him, but afterwards would not perform any thing of what he had promised him.

30 *Without the borders, &c.]* Or, except the borders.

31 *Give me for them five hundred talents, &c.]* The sense of this verse seems to be, That Antiochus demand-

ed five hundred talents of silver by way of purchase, and five hundred more for the damage which had been done, and the amount of the tributes of these places during the time that the Jews had been in possession of them.

*Fight against you.]* Margin, Subdue you to fight.

39 *He commanded him to build up Cedron.]* Or, as the margin, Gedor, a city in the tribe of Dan, on the confines of the Idumeans. The Greek word, translated Gater, rather signifies the straits of some mountain.



began to provoke the people, and to invade Judea, and to take the people prisoners, and slay them.

41 And when he had built up Cedron, he set horsemen there, and an host of footmen, to the end that issuing out they might make outrodes upon the ways of Judea, as the king had commanded him.

### CHAP. XVI.

3 *Judas and John prevail against the forces sent by Antiochus.* 11 *The captain of Jericho inviteth Simon and two of his sons into his castle, and there treacherously murdereth them.* 19 *John is sought for,* 22 *and escapeth, and killeth those that sought for him.*

**T**HEN came up John from Gazara, and told Simon his father, what Cendebeus had done.

2 Wherefore Simon called his two eldest sons, Judas and John, and said unto them, I and my brethren, and my father's house, have ever from our youth unto this day fought against the enemies of Israel; and things have prospered so well in our hands, that we have delivered Israel oftentimes.

3 But now I am old, and ye by God's mercy are of a sufficient age: be ye in stead of me and my brother, and go and fight for our nation, and the help from heaven be with you.

4 So he chose out of the country twenty thousand men of war with horsemen, who went out against Cendebeus, and rested that night at Modin.

5 And when as they rose in the morning, and went into the plain, behold, a mighty great host both of footmen and horsemen,

came against them: howbeit, there was a water-brook betwixt them.

6 So he and his people pitched over against them: and when he saw that the people were afraid to go over the water-brook, he went first over himself, and then the men seeing him, passed through after him.

7 That done, he divided his men, and set the horsemen in the midst of the footmen: for the enemies horsemen were very many.

8 Then sounded they with the holy trumpets: whereupon Cendebeus and his host were put to flight, so that many of them were slain, and the remnant gat them to the strong hold.

9 At that time was Judas John's brother wounded, but John still followed after them, until he came to Cedron, which Cendebeus had built.

10 So they fled even unto the towers in the fields of Azotus, wherefore he burnt it with fire: so that there were slain of them about two thousand men. Afterward he returned into the land of Judea in peace.

11 Moreover in the plain of Jericho was Ptolemeus the son of Abubus made captain, and he had abundance of silver and gold.

12 For he was the high priest's son in law.

13 Wherefore his heart being lifted up, he thought to get the country to himself, and thereupon consulted deceitfully against Simon and his sons to destroy them.

14 Now Simon was visiting the cities that were in the country, and taking care for the good ordering of them, at which time he came down himself to Jericho with his sons, Mattathias and Judas, in the hundred threescore and seventh year, in the eleventh

### NOTES on Chap. XVI.

Ver. 8 *The remnant gat them to the strong hold.*] i. e. To Cedron, or rather Gedon, as it should be read.

10 *So they fled even unto the towers, &c.*] The margin reads, Which when he had set on fire, they fled unto the towers in the fields of Azotus, and there were slain, &c.

eleventh month called Sabat :

15 Where the *son* of Abubus receiving them deceitfully into a little hold called Docus, which he had built, made them a great banquet : howbeit he had hid men there.

16 So when Simon and his sons had drunk largely, Ptolemee and his men rose up, and took their weapons, and came upon Simon into the banqueting-place, and slew him, and his two sons, and certain of his servants.

17 In which doing he committed a great treachery, and recompensed evil for good.

18 Then Ptolemee wrote these things, and sent to the king, that he should send him an host to aid him, and he would deliver him the country and cities.

19 He sent others also to Gazara, to kill John, and unto the tribunes he sent letters

to come unto him, that he might give them silver, and gold, and rewards.

20 And others he sent to take Jerusalem, and the mountain of the temple.

21 Now one had run afore to Gazara, and told John that his father and brethren were slain, and (*quoth he*) Ptolemee hath sent to slay thee also.

22 Hereof when he heard, he was fore astonished : so he laid hands on them that were come to destroy him, and slew them ; for he knew that they sought to make him away.

23 As concerning the rest of the acts of John, and his wars, and worthy deeds which he did, and the building of the walls which he made, and his doings,

24 Behold, these are written in the chronicles of his priesthood, from the time he was made high priest after his father.

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19 *Unto the tribunes he sent letters.*] Greek, Captains of thousands.

24 *Behold these are written in the chronicles, &c.*] Josephus relates in what manner he was, through the favour of the people, made high priest after his father, though an elder brother was alive. It appears as if the author of

this book of Maccabees died, or was prevented by some misfortune, from carrying on his history any further than to the relation of the attempt which Ptolemee made to destroy John in Gazara, mentioned in ver. 22. and that these two last verses were added by some other hand.

The End of the First Book of the MACCABEES.

5 MA 36





10 For when our fathers were led into  
 Persia, the priests that were then devout,  
 took the fire of the altar privily, and hid it  
 in a hollow place of a pit without water,  
 that they might keep it to that the place  
 was unknown to all men. 11 Now after many years, when it  
 pleased God, Darius king of Persia, had  
 those priests that had hid it, to the fire.  
 But when they told again they found no fire,  
 but thick water.

## The Second Book of the

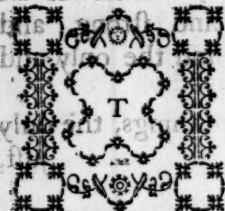
# M A C C A B E E S.

### The A R G U M E N T.

*This book is an epitome of a larger history, written by one Jason, but long since lost. Both the author and abridger seem to have been Hellenists by their manner of computation and style; or rather, it looks like a collection of some valuable pieces relating to the Jewish history, from the attempt of Heliodorus upon the treasury of the temple, to the signal victory which Judas Maccabeus gained over Nicanor fifteen years after; i. e. from the year of the world 3828, to 3843. Prideaux says, this second book does by no means equal the accurateness and excellency of the first; and in particular that this letter is spurious.*

### C H A P. I.

1 A letter of the Jews from Jerusalem to them of Egypt, to thank God for the death of Antiochus. 19 Of the fire that was hidden in the pit. 24 The prayer of Neemias.



**T**H E brethren the Jews that be at Jerusalem, and in the land of Judea, with unto the brethren the Jews that are throughout Egypt, health and peace.

2 God be gracious unto you, and remember his covenant that he made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, his faithful servants;

3 And give you all an heart to serve him, and to do his will with a good courage, and a willing mind;

4 And open your hearts in his law and commandments, and send you peace,

5 And hear your prayers, and be at one with you, and never forsake you in time of trouble.

6 And now we be here praying for you.

7 What time as Demetrius reigned, in the hundred threescore and ninth year, we the Jews wrote unto you in the extremity of trouble that came upon us in those years, from the time that Jason and his company revolted from the holy land and kingdom,

8 And burnt the porch, and shed innocent blood: then we prayed unto the Lord, and were heard; we offered also sacrifices, and fine flour, and lighted the lamps, and set forth the loaves.

9 And now see that ye keep the feast of tabernacles in the month Casleu.

10 In the hundred fourscore and eighth year, the people that were at Jerusalem, and in Judea, and the council and Judas, sent greeting and health unto Aristobulus, king Ptolemeus master, who was of the stock of the anointed priests, and to the Jews that were in Egypt.

11 Inasmuch as God hath delivered us from great perils, we thank him highly, as having been in battle against a king.

12 For he cast them out that fought within the holy city.

13 For when the leader was come into Persia, and the army with him that seemed invincible, they were slain in the temple of Nanea, by the deceit of Nanea's priests.

14 For Antiochus, as though he would marry her, came into the place, and his friends that were with him, to receive money in name of a dowry.

15 Which when the priests of Nanea had set forth, and he was entered with a small company into the compass of the temple, they shut the temple as soon as Antiochus was come in.

16 And opening a privy door of the roof, they threw stones like thunder-bolts, and struck down the captain, hewed them in pieces, smote off their heads, and cast them to those that were without.

17 Blessed be our God in all things, who hath delivered up the ungodly.

18 Therefore whereas we are now pur-

posed to keep the purification of the temple upon the five and twentieth day of the month Casleu, we thought it necessary to certify you thereof, that ye also might keep it, as the feast of the tabernacles, and of the fire, which was given us when Neemias offered sacrifice, after that he had builded the temple, and the altar.

19 For when our fathers were led into Persia, the priests that were then devout, took the fire of the altar privily, and hid it in a hollow place of a pit without water, where they kept it sure, so that the place was unknown to all men.

20 Now after many years, when it pleased God, Neemias being sent from the king of Persia, did send of the posterity of those priests that had hid it, to the fire: But when they told us they found no fire, but thick water;

21 Then commanded he them to draw it up, and to bring it; and when the sacrifices were laid on, Neemias commanded the priest to sprinkle the wood and the things laid thereupon with the water.

22 When this was done, and the time came that the sun shone, which afore was hid in the cloud, there was a great fire kindled, so that every man marvelled.

23 And the priests made a prayer whilst the sacrifice was consuming (*I say*) both the priests, and all the rest, Jonathan beginning, and the rest answering thereunto, as Neemias did.

24 And the prayer was after this manner, O Lord, Lord God, Creator of all things, who art fearful and strong, and righteous, and merciful, and the only and gracious King,

25 The only giver of all things, the only just,

#### NOTES ON CHAP. I.

Ver. 10 Unto Aristobulus, king Ptolemeus master.] Aristo-

bulus was probably the instructor of Ptolemy in the laws and customs of the Jews, or one of his philosophical masters.



just, almighty, and everlasting, thou that deliverest Israel from all trouble, and didst choose the fathers, and sanctify them :

26 Receive the sacrifice for thy whole people Israel, and preserve thine own portion and sanctify it.

27 Gather those together that are scattered from us, deliver them that serve among the heathen, look upon them that are despised and abhorred, and let the heathen know that thou art our God.

28 Punish them that oppress us, and with pride do us wrong.

29 Plant thy people again in thy holy place, as Moses hath spoken.

30 And the priests sung psalms of thanksgiving.

31 Now when the sacrifice was consumed, Neemias commanded the water that was left, to be poured on the great stones.

32 When this was done, there was kindled a flame : but it was consumed by the light that shined from the altar.

33 So when this matter was known, it was told the king of Persia, that in the place where the priests that were led away, had hid the fire; there appeared water, and that Neemias had purified the sacrifices therewith.

34 Then the king enclosing the place, made it holy after he had tried the matter.

35 And the king took many gifts, and bestowed thereof, on those whom he would gratify.

36 And Neemias called this thing Naphthar, which is as much as to say, a cleansing : but many men call it Nephi.

C H A P. M.

1 *What Jeremy the prophet did : 5 How he*

*hid the tabernacle, the ark, and the altar.*

13 *What Neemias and Judas wrote.* 20

*What Jason wrote in five books : 25 And how those were abridged by the author of this book.*

**I**T is also found in the records, that Jeremy the prophet commanded them that were carried away, to take of the fire as it hath been signified.

2 And how that the prophet having given them the law, charged them not to forget the commandments of the Lord, and that they should not err in their minds, when they see images of silver and gold, with their ornaments.

3 And with other such speeches exhorted he them, that the law should not depart from their hearts.

4 It was also contained in the same writing, that the prophet being warned of God, commanded the tabernacle and the ark to go with him, as he went forth into the mountain, where Moses climbed up, and saw the heritage of God.

5 And when Jeremy came thither, he found an hollow cave, wherein he laid the tabernacle, and the ark, and the altar of incense, and so stopped the door.

6 And some of those that followed him, came to mark the way, but they could not find it.

7 Which when Jeremy perceived he blamed them, saying, As for that place, it shall be unknown until the time that God gather his people again together, and receive them unto mercy.

8 Then shall the Lord shew them these things, and the glory of the Lord shall appear, and the cloud also, as it was shewed under Moses, and as when Solomon defired

32 *Neemias.*] Margin, Neemias his company.

#### NOTES on Chap. II.

Ver. 1 *It is also found in the records, &c.*] The letter, be.

gun in the last chapter, is here continued, and some farther account given of the holy fire ; the discovery and application of which was mentioned in the preceding part of this letter.

fired that the place might be honourably sanctified.

9 It was also declared that he being wife, offered the sacrifice of dedication, and of the finishing of the temple.

10 And as when Moses prayed unto the Lord, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the sacrifices: even so prayed Solomon also, and the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offerings.

11 And Moses said, Because the sin-offering was not to be eaten, it was consumed.

12 So Solomon kept those eight days.

13 The same things also were reported in the writings and commentaries of Neemias; and how he founding a library, gathered together the acts of the kings and the prophets, and of David, and the epistles of the kings concerning the holy gifts.

14 In like manner also Judas gathered together all those things that were lost, by reason of the war we had, and they remain with us.

15 Wherefore if ye have need thereof, send some to fetch them unto you.

16 Whereas we then are about to celebrate the purification, we have written unto you, and ye shall do well, if ye keep the same days.

17 We hope also, that the God, that delivered all his people, and gave them all an heritage, and the kingdom, and the priesthood, and the sanctuary,

18 As he promised in the law, will shortly have mercy upon us, and gather us together out of every land under heaven, into the holy place: for he hath delivered us out of great troubles, and hath purified the place.

19 Now as concerning Judas Maccabeus, and his brethren, and the purification of the great temple, and the dedication of the altar,

20 And the wars against Antiochus Epiphanes, and Eupator his son,

21 And the manifest signs that came from heaven, unto those that behaved themselves manfully to their honour for Judaism: so that being but a few, they overcame the whole country, and chased barbarous multitudes,

22 And recovered again the temple renowned all the world over, and freed the city, and upheld the laws which were going down, the Lord being gracious unto them with all favour.

23 All these things (I say) being declared by Jason of Cyrene in five books, we will assay to abridge in one volume.

24 For considering the infinite number, and the difficulty which they find that desire to look into the narrations of the story, for the variety of the matter.

25 We have been careful, that they that will read, might have delight, and that they that are desirous to commit to memory, might have ease, and that all into whose hands it comes, might have profit.

26 Therefore to us that have taken upon us this painful labour of abridging, it was not easy, but a matter of sweat and watching;

27 Even as it is no ease unto him that prepareth a banquet, and seeketh the benefit of others: yet for the pleasuring of many, we will undertake gladly this great pains;

28 Leaving to the author the exact handling of every particular, and labouring to follow

4 E

14 *That were lost.*] Margin, Fell out during the war.  
17, 18 *We hope also that &c.*] The Greek reads, Now God it is that saved all his people, and rendered the heritage, and the kingdom, and the priesthood, and the sanc-

tuary, as he promised in the law: for we hope in God that he will shortly, &c.

27 *For the pleasuring of many.*] Margin, To deserve well of many.



follow the rules of an abridgment.

29 For as the master builder of a new house must care for the whole building: but he that undertaketh to set it out, and paint it, must seek out fit things for the adorning thereof: even so I think it is with us.

30 To stand upon every point, and go over things at large, and to be curious in particulars, belongeth to the first author of the story.

31 But to use brevity, and avoid much labouring of the work, is to be granted to him that will make an abridgment.

32 Here then will we begin the story: only adding thus much to that which hath been said, That it is a foolish thing to make a long prologue, and to be short in the story itself.

### CHAP. III.

1 Of the honour done to the temple by the kings of the Gentiles. 4 Simon uttereth what treasures are in the temple. 7 Heli-  
dorus is sent to take them away: 24 He is stricken of God, and healed at the prayer of Onias.

**N**OW when the holy city was inhabited with all peace, and the laws were kept very well, because of the godliness of Onias the high priest, and his hatred of wickedness,

2 It came to pass that even the kings themselves did honour the place, and magnify the temple with their best gifts;

3 Infomuch that Seleucus king of Asia, of his own revenues, bare all the costs belonging to the service of the sacrifices.

4 But one Simon of the tribe of Benjamin, who was made governor of the temple, fell out with the high priest about disorder in the city.

5 And when he could not overcome Onias, he gat him to Apollonius the son of Thraseas, who then was governor of Celosyria and Phenice.

6 And told him that the treasury in Jerusalem was full of infinite sums of money, so that the multitude of their riches which did not pertain to the account of the sacrifices was innumerable, and that it was possible to bring all into the king's hand.

7 Now when Apollonius came to the king, and had shewed him of the money whereof he was told, the king chose out Heli-dorus his treasurer, and sent him with a commandment to bring him the foresaid money.

8 So forthwith Heli-dorus took his journey, under a colour of visiting the cities of Celosyria and Phenice, but indeed to fulfil the king's purpose.

9 And when he was come to Jerusalem, and had been courteously received of the high priest of the city, he told him what intelligence was given of the money, and declared wherefore he came, and asked if these things were so indeed.

10 Then the high priest told him that there was such money laid up for the relief of widows and fatherless children.

11 And that some of it belonged to Hircanus, son of Tobias, a man of great dignity, and not as that wicked Simon had misinformed: the sum whereof in all was four

### NOTES on Chap. III.

[Ver. 4 Simon of the tribe of Benjamin.] We have here a very remarkable instance of revenge. Simon, who had unjustly quarrelled with Onias, was filled with wrath because he had not the power of overcoming him; and applied to Apollonius, informing him that there was prodigious sums laid up in the temple, and might easily be

converted to the king's use. Thus, rather than not gratify his revengeful temper, he preferred an information against the temple itself, hoping that the high priest would suffer sufficiently for the affront he had given him; tho' he well knew that if the treasure was taken from the temple, the loss would fall heaviest on the widows and orphans, who had never injured him.

four hundred talents of silver, and two hundred of gold:

12 And that it was altogether impossible that such wrongs should be done unto them, that had committed it to the holiness of the place, and to the majesty and inviolable sanctity of the temple, honoured over all the world.

13 But Heliodorus, because of the king's commandment given him, said, That in any wise it must be brought into the king's treasury.

14 So at the day which he appointed, he entered in to order this matter: wherefore there was no small agony throughout the whole city.

15 But the priests prostrating themselves before the altar in their priests' vestments, called unto heaven upon him that made a law concerning things given to be kept, that they should safely be preserved for such as had committed them to be kept.

16 Then whoso had looked the high priest in the face, it would have wounded his heart: for his countenance, and the changing of his colour, declared the inward agony of his mind.

17 For the man was so compassed with fear, and horror of the body, that it was manifest to them that looked upon him, what sorrow he had now in his heart:

18 Others ran flocking out of their houses to the general supplication, because the place was like to come into contempt.

19 And the women, girt with sackcloth under their breasts, abounded in the streets, and the virgins that were kept in, ran, some to the gates, and some to the walls, and others looked out of the windows.

20 And all holding their hands towards heaven, made supplication.

18 To the general supplication.] Margin, To make general supplication.

21 Then it would have pined a man to see the falling down of the multitude of all sorts, and the fear of the high priest, being in such an agony.

22 They then called upon the Almighty Lord, to keep the things committed of trust, safe and sure, for those that had committed them.

23 Nevertheless, Heliodorus executed that which was decreed.

24 Now as he was there present himself with his guard about the treasury, the Lord of spirits, and the prince of all power caused a great apparition, so that all that presumed to come in with him, were astonished at the power of God, and fainted, and were sore afraid.

25 For there appeared unto them an horse with a terrible rider upon him, and adorned with a very fair covering, and he ran fiercely, and smote at Heliodorus with his forefeet, and it seemed that he that sat upon the horse, had compleat harness of gold.

26 Moreover, two other young men appeared before him, notable in strength, excellent in beauty, and comely in apparel, who stood by him on either side, and scourged him continually, and gave him many sore stripes.

27 And Heliodorus fell suddenly unto the ground, and was compassed with great darkness: but they that were with him, took him up, and put him into a litter.

28 Thus him, that lately came with a great train, and with all his guard into the said treasury, they carried out, being unable to help himself with his weapons: and manifestly they acknowledged the power of God.

29 For

21 The fear of the high priest.] Greek, Expectation.

24 The Lord of spirits.] Margin, Lord of our fathers.



29 For he by the hand of God was cast down, and lay speechless without all hope of life.

30 But they praised the Lord that had miraculously honoured his own place: for the temple, which a little afore was full of fear and trouble, when the Almighty Lord appeared, was filled with joy and gladness.

31 Then straightway certain of Heliodorus friends, prayed Onias that he would call upon the most High, to grant him his life, who lay ready to give up the ghost.

32 So the high priest suspecting lest the king should misconceive, that some treachery had been done to Heliodorus by the Jews, offered a sacrifice for the health of the man.

33 Now as the high priest was making an atonement, the same young men, in the same clothing, appeared and stood beside Heliodorus, saying, Give Onias the high priest great thanks, inasmuch as for his sake the Lord hath granted thee life.

34 And seeing that thou hast been scourged from heaven, declare unto all men the mighty power of God: and when they had spoken these words, they appeared no more.

35 So Heliodorus after he had offered sacrifice unto the Lord, and made great vows unto him that had saved his life, and saluted Onias, returned with his host to the king.

36 Then testified he to all men, the works of the great God, which he had seen with his eyes.

37 And when the king asked Heliodo-

rus, who might be a fit man to be yet sent once again to Jerusalem, he said,

38 If thou hast any enemy or traitor, send him thither, and thou shalt receive him well scourged, if he escape with his life: for in that place, no doubt, there is an especial power of God.

39 For he that dwelleth in heaven, hath his eye on that place, and defendeth it, and he beateth and destroyeth them that come to hurt it.

40 And the things concerning Heliodorus, and the keeping of the treasury, fell out on this sort.

#### C H A P. IV.

1 Simon slandereth Onias. 7 Jason by corrupting the king, obtaineth the office of the high priest. 24 Menelaus getteth the same from Jason by the like corruption. 34 Andronicus traiterously murdereth Onias. 36 The king being informed thereof, causeth Andronicus to be put to death. 39 The wickedness of Lyfimachus, by the infliction of Menelaus.

**T**HIS Simon now (of whom we spake afore) having been a bewrayer of the money, and of his country, slandered Onias, as if he had terrified Heliodorus, and been the worker of these evils.

2 Thus was he bold to call him a traitor, that had deserved well of the city, and tendered his own nation, and was so zealous of the laws.

3 But when their hatred went so far, that by one of Simon's faction, murders were committed,

4 Onias seeing the danger of this contention, and that Apollonius, as being the governor

#### NOTES on Chap. IV.

Ver. 1 *This Simon now, &c.*] The traitor Simon, seeing Heliodorus thus terrified, tho' he must have been convinced that it was done by the immediate and miraculous intervention of the Divine power, to punish the presumption of a

proud mortal, was yet so diabolically malicious, as to assert that the terror of Heliodorus was nothing more than a contrivance of Onias to prevent his taking the money. This at length became a party cause, and so enraged and violent were the partizans of Simon, that insults and murders were the effects of their contention. 2

governor of Celosyria and Phenice, did rage, and increase Simon's malice,

5 He went to the king not to be an accuser of his countrymen, but seeking the good of all, both public and private :

6 For he saw that it was impossible, that the state should continue quiet, and Simon leave his folly, unless the king did look thereunto.

7 But after the death of Seleucus, when Antiochus, called Epiphanes, took the kingdom, Jason the brother of Onias, laboured under-hand to be high priest,

8 Promising unto the king, by intercession, three hundred and threescore talents of silver, and of another revenue, eighty talents :

9 Besides this, he promised to assign an hundred and fifty more, if he might have licence to set him up a place for exercise, and for the training up of youth in the fashions of the heathen, and to write them of Jerusalem *by the name of* Antiochians.

10 Which when the king had granted, and he had gotten into his hand the rule, he forthwith brought his own nation to the Greekish fashion.

11 And the royal privileges granted of special favour to the Jews, by the means of John the father of Eupolemus, who went ambassador to Rome for amity and aid, he took away ; and putting down the governments which were according to the law, he brought up new customs against the law.

12 For he built gladly a place of exercise under the tower itself, and brought the

chief young men under his subjection, and made them wear a hat.

13 Now such was the height of Greek fashions, and increase of heathenish manners, through the exceeding profaneness of Jason that ungodly wretch, and not high priest :

14 That the priest had no courage to serve any more at the altar, but despising the temple, and neglecting the sacrifices, hastened to be partakers of the unlawful allowance in the place of exercise, after the game of Discus called them forth.

15 Not setting by the honours of their fathers, but liking the glory of the Grecians best of all.

16 By reason whereof fore calamity came upon them : for they had them to be their enemies and avengers, whose custom they followed so earnestly, and unto whom they desired to be like in all things.

17 For it is not a light thing to do wickedly against the laws of God : but the time following shall declare these things.

18 Now when the game that was used every fifth year was kept at Tyrus, the king being present,

19 This ungracious Jason sent special messengers from Jerusalem, who were Antiochians, to carry three hundred drachmes of silver to the sacrifice of Hercules, which even the bearers thereof thought fit not to bestow upon the sacrifice, because it was not convenient, but to be reserved for other charges.

20 This money then, in regard of the  
4 F sender,

7 *But after the death of Seleucus, &c.*] Onias had now another and more dangerous enemy to struggle with, namely, his own brother Jason, who endeavoured to deprive him of the priesthood, in order to obtain which, he offers the king a prodigious sum of money for his assistance therein, besides a large gratuity, for the king's permission to educate the Jewish youth in the customs and rites of the heathen. Both these requests Jason obtained of the king, and so hearty was he in prosecuting this odious business,

that no regard was any longer had for the laws of Moses, the sanctuary of the temple, or the true worship of God. Every thing sacred was profaned, and the Grecian games were preferred to the established religion, and Jewish customs, which their ancestors had received from God himself.

14 *The game of Discus.*] Or, the Discus, which was a stone with an hole in the midst. Margin.

19 *Special messengers.*] Greek. Who were religious ambassadors.



sender, was appointed to Hercules sacrifice; but because of the bearers thereof, it was employed to the making of galleys.

21 Now when Apollonius the son of Menestheus was sent into Egypt, for the coronation of king Ptolemæus Philometer, Antiochus understanding him not to be well affected to his affairs, provided for his own safety: whereupon he came to Joppe, and from thence to Jerusalem.

22 Where he was honourably received of Jason, and of the city, and was brought in with torch-light, and with great shoutings: and so afterward went with his host unto Phenice.

23 Three years afterward, Jason sent Menelaus the aforesaid Simon's brother to bear the money unto the king, and to put him in mind of certain necessary matters.

24 But he being brought to the presence of the king, when he had magnified him for the glorious appearance of his power, got the priesthood to himself, offering more than Jason by three hundred talents of silver.

25 So he came with the king's mandate, bringing nothing worthy the high priesthood, but having the fury of a cruel tyrant, and the rage of a savage beast.

26 Then Jason who had undermined his own brother, being undermined by another, was compelled to flee into the country of the Ammonites.

27 So Menelaus got the principality: but as for the money that he had promised unto the king, he took no good order for it, albeit Sostratus the ruler of the castle required it.

28 For unto him appertained the gathering of the customs. Wherefore they were both called before the king.

29 Now Menelaus left his brother Lyfi-

machus in his stead in the priesthood; and Sostratus left Crates, who was governor of the Cyprians.

30 While those things were in doing, they of Tarsus and Mallos made insurrection, because they were given to the king's concubine called Antiochis.

31 Then came the king in all haste to appease matters, leaving Andronicus, a man in authority, for his deputy.

32 Now Menelaus supposing that he had gotten a convenient time, stole certain vessels of gold out of the temple, and gave some of them to Andronicus, and some he sold into Tyrus and the cities round about.

33 Which when Onias knew of a surety, he reprovèd him, and withdrew himself into a sanctuary at Daphne, that lieth by Antiochia.

34 Wherefore Menelaus taking Andronicus apart, prayed him to get Onias into his hands; who being persuaded thereunto, and coming to Onias in deceit, gave him his right hand with oaths; and though he were suspected by him, yet persuaded he him to come forth of the sanctuary: whom forthwith he shut up without regard of justice.

35 For the which cause not only the Jews, but many also of other nations took great indignation, and were much grieved for the unjust murder of the man.

36 And when the king was come again, from the places about Cilicia, the Jews that were in the city, and certain of the Greeks that abhorred the fact also, complained because Onias was slain without cause.

37 Therefore Antiochus was heartily sorry, and moved to pity, and wept, because of the sober and modest behaviour of him that was dead.

38 And

38 And being kindled with anger, forthwith he took away Andronicus his purple, and rent off his clothes, and leading him through the whole city unto that very place where he had committed impiety against Onias, there slew he the cursed murderer. Thus the Lord rewarded him his punishment as he had deserved.

39 Now when many sacrileges had been committed in the city by Lyfimachus, with the consent of Menelaus, and the bruit thereof was spread abroad, the multitude gathered themselves together against Lyfimachus, many vessels of gold being already carried away.

40 Whereupon the common people rising, and being filled with rage, Lyfimachus armed about three thousand men, and began first to offer violence; one Auranus being the leader, a man far gone in years, and no less in folly.

41 They then seeing the attempt of Lyfimachus, some of them caught stones, some clubs, others taking handfuls of dust, that was next at hand, cast them all together upon Lyfimachus, and those that set upon them.

42 Thus many of them they wounded, and some they struck to the ground, and all of them they forced to flee; but as for the church-robber himself, him they killed beside the treasury.

43 Of these matters therefore there was an accusation laid against Menelaus.

44 Now when the king came to Tyrus, three men that were sent from the senate, pleaded the cause before him.

45 But Menelaus being now convicted,

promised Ptolemee the son of Dorymenes, to give him much money, if he would pacify the king towards him.

46 Whereupon Ptolemee taking the king aside into a certain gallery, as it were to take the air, brought him to be of another mind:

47 Inasmuch that he discharged Menelaus from the accusations, who notwithstanding was cause of all the mischief: and those poor men, who if they had told their cause, yea, before the Scythians, should have been judged innocent, them he condemned to death.

48 Thus they that followed the matter for the city, and for the people, and for the holy vessels, did soon suffer unjust punishment.

49 Wherefore even they of Tyrus, moved with hatred of that wicked deed, caused them to be honourably buried.

50 And so through the covetousness of them that were of power, Menelaus remained still in authority, increasing in malice, and being a great traitor to the citizens.

## CHAP. V.

2 Of the signs and tokens seen in Jerusalem.

6 Of the end and wickedness of Jason.

11 The pursuit of Antiochus against the Jews.

15 The spoiling of the temple.

27 Maccabeus fleeth into the wilderness.

**A**BOUT the same time, Antiochus prepared his second voyage into Egypt:

2 And then it happened, that through all the city, for the space almost of forty days, there were seen horsemen running in the

them. Dreadful visions of warlike encounters between men and horses were seen in the air for forty days successively, with which the people were so terrified, that they unanimously joined in their prayers to God that he would avert those evils which seemed to be threatened; or make them favourable omens of future prosperity to their nation.

40 Auranus.] Margin, Tyrannus.

## NOTES on Chap. V.

Ver. 1 About the same time, Antiochus prepared his second voyage into Egypt.] Whilst the contentions prevailed between Menelaus and the Jews, God was pleased to give them some fearful warnings of what he was about to bring upon



the air, in cloth of gold, and armed with lances, like a band of soldiers,

3 And troops of horsemen in array, encountering and running one against another, with shaking of shields, and multitude of pikes, and drawing of swords, and casting of darts, and glittering of golden ornaments, and harness of all sorts.

4 Wherefore every man prayed that that apparition might turn to good.

5 Now when there was gone forth a false rumour, as though Antiochus had been dead, Jason took at the least a thousand men, and suddenly made an assault upon the city, and they that were upon the walls, being put back, and the city at length taken, Menelaus fled into the castle.

6 But Jason slew his own citizens without mercy (not considering that to get the day of them of his own nation, would be a most unhappy day for him: but thinking they had been his enemies, and not his countrymen, whom he conquered.)

7 Howbeit, for all this he obtained not the principality, but at the last received shame for the reward of his treason, and fled again into the country of the Ammonites.

8 In the end therefore he had an unhappy return, being accused before Aretas the king of the Arabians, fleeing from city to city, pursued of all men, hated as a forsaker of the laws, and being had in abomination, as an open enemy of his country, and countrymen, he was cast out into Egypt.

9 Thus he that had driven many out of their country, perished in a strange land, retiring to the Lacedemonians, thinking there to find succour by reason of his kindred.

10 And he that had cast out many un-

buried, had none to mourn for him, nor any solemn funerals at all, nor sepulchre with his fathers.

11 Now when this that was done came to the king's ear, he thought that Judea had revolted: whereupon removing out of Egypt in a furious mind, he took the city by force of arms.

12 And commanded his men of war not to spare such as they met, and to slay such as went up upon the houses.

13 Thus there was killing of young and old, making away of men, women, and children, slaying of virgins and infants.

14 And there were destroyed within the space of three whole days, fourscore thousand, whereof forty thousand were slain in the conflict, and no fewer sold than slain.

15 Yet was he not content with this, but presumed to go into the most holy temple of all the world: Menelaus, that traitor to the laws, and to his own country, being his guide.

16 And taking the holy vessels with polluted hands, and with profane hands pulling down the things that were dedicated by other kings to the augmentation, and glory, and honour of the place, he gave them away.

17 And so haughty was Antiochus in mind, that he considered not that the Lord was angry for a while for the sins of them that dwelt in the city, and therefore his eye was not upon the place.

18 For had they not been formerly wrapped in many sins, this man as soon as he had come, had forthwith been scourged, and put back from his presumption, as Heliodorus was, whom Seleucus the king sent to view the treasury.

19 Nevertheless, God did not choose the

3 Multitude of pikes.] Margin, Staves.

8 As an open enemy.] Margin, As an executioner.

the people for the place's sake, but the place for the people's sake.

20 And therefore the place itself, that was partaker with them of the adversity that happened to the nation, did afterward communicate in the benefits sent from the Lord: and as it was forsaken in the wrath of the Almighty, so again the great Lord being reconciled, it was set up with all glory.

21 So when Antiochus had carried out of the temple a thousand and eight hundred talents, he departed in all haste unto Antiocha, weening in his pride to make the land navigable, and the sea passable by foot: such was the haughtiness of his mind.

22 And he left governors to vex the nation: at Jerusalem Philip, for his country a Phrygian, and for manners more barbarous than he that set him there.

23 And at Garizim, Andronicus; and besides, Menelaus, who worse than all the rest, bare an heavy hand over the citizens, having a malicious mind against his countrymen the Jews.

24 He sent also that detestable ringleader Apollonius, with an army of two and twenty thousand, commanding him to slay

all those that were in their best age, and to sell the women, and the younger sort.

25 Who coming to Jerusalem, and pretending peace, did forbear till the holy day of the sabbath, when taking the Jews keeping holy day, he commanded his men to arm themselves.

26 And so he slew all them that were gone to the celebrating of the sabbath, and running through the city with weapons, slew great multitudes.

27 But Judas Maccabeus, with nine others, or thereabout, withdrew himself into the wilderness, and lived in the mountains after the manner of beasts, with his company, who fed on herbs continually, lest they should be partakers of the pollution.

## CHAP. VI.

1 The Jews are compelled to leave the law of God. 4 The temple is defiled. 8 Cruelty upon the people and the women. 12 An exhortation to bear affliction, by the example of the valiant courage of Eleazarus, cruelly tortured.

NOT long after this the king sent an old man of Athens, to compel the Jews to depart from the laws of their fathers.

## NOTES on Chap. VI.

Ver. 1 Not long after this the king sent an old man, &c.] Antiochus, still raging against the Jews, takes another resolution, tho' as barbarous as any of his former decrees against them, which was to compel them to renounce the worship of the true God, and to embrace idolatry. For this purpose, he chuses a proper instrument, an ancient man of Athens, or, as the Latin interpreters say, of Antioch, whom he sends on this impious business to Jerusalem. His orders were, to force the Jews to forsake their laws, to abolish the worship of the sanctuary, to give the temple at Jerusalem the title of Jupiter Olympius; that in Garizim, of Jupiter the defender of strangers; or as Josephus has it, Jupiter Hellenius; which was done at the request of the inhabitants of the place, as it is related in Josephus.

21 When Antiochus, &c.] Antiochus, having amassed a prodigious booty, suddenly departed to Antioch, leaving such governors behind him as he knew would not scruple to execute his tyrannic purposes upon the poor oppressed people; and so inveterate was his malice against this unhappy nation, that he sent another army under the command of his general Apollonius, in order to destroy all the men who were of advanced age, and capable of bearing arms, and to sell the women and youths for slaves. Apollonius, on his coming to Jerusalem, thought proper to disguise his horrid design under the fair pretence of peace, which the Jews uncautiously crediting, came together as usual to worship on the sabbath-day, when he furiously set upon them, and made a terrible slaughter; from which Judas Maccabeus, with nine others, escaping, fled to the wilderness, where they subsisted on the herbs and the natural productions of the earth.

27 With nine others.] Greek, Who was the tenth.



thers, and not to live after the laws of God:

2 And to pollute also the temple in Jerusalem, and to call it the temple of Jupiter Olympius; and that in Garizim, of Jupiter the defender of strangers, as they did desire that dwelt in the place.

3 The coming in of this mischief was fore and grievous to the people:

4 For the temple was filled with riot and revelling, by the Gentiles, who dallied with harlots, and had to do with women within the circuit of the holy places, and besides that, brought in things that were not lawful.

5 The altar also was filled with profane things which the law forbiddeth.

6 Neither was it lawful for a man to keep sabbath days, or ancient feasts, or to profess himself at all to be a Jew.

7 And in the day of the king's birth every month they were brought by bitter constraint to eat of the sacrifices; and when the feast of Bacchus was kept, the Jews were compelled to go in procession to Bacchus, carrying ivy.

8 Moreover, there went out a decree to the neighbour cities of the heathen, by the suggestion of Ptolemee, against the Jews, that they should observe the same fashions, and be partakers of their sacrifices.

9 And whoso would not conform themselves to the manners of the Gentiles, should be put to death. Then might a man have seen the present misery.

10 For there were two women brought who had circumcised their children, whom when they had openly led round about the city, the babes hanging at their breasts, they cast them down headlong from the wall.

11 And others that had run together in-

to caves near by, to keep the sabbath day secretly, being discovered to Philip, were all burnt together, because they made a conscience to help themselves, for the honour of the most sacred day.

12 Now I beseech those that read this book, that they be not discouraged for these calamities, but that they judge those punishments not to be for destruction, but for a chastening of our nation.

13 For it is a token of his great goodness, when wicked doers are not suffered any long time, but forthwith punished.

14 For not as with other nations, whom the Lord patiently forbearth to punish, till they be come to the fulness of their sins, so dealeth he with us,

15 Lest that being come to the height of sin, afterwards he should take vengeance of us.

16 And therefore he never withdraweth his mercy from us. And though he punish with adversity, yet doth he never forsake his people.

17 But let this that we have spoken be for a warning unto us. And now will we come to the declaring of the matter in few words.

18 Eleazar one of the principal scribes, an aged man, and of a well-favoured countenance, was constrained to open his mouth, and to eat swine's flesh.

19 But he choosing rather to die gloriously, than to live stained with such an abomination, spit it forth, and came of his own accord to the torment,

20 As it behoved them to come, that are resolute to stand out against such things as are not lawful for love of life to be tasted.

21 But they that had the charge of that wicked feast, for the old acquaintance they had with the man, taking him aside, besought

sought him to bring flesh of his own provision, such as was lawful for him to use; and make as if he did eat of the flesh, taken from the sacrifice commanded by the king;

22 That in so doing he might be delivered from death, and for the old friendship with them, find favour;

23 But he began to consider discreetly, and as became his age, and the excellency of his ancient years, and the honour of his gray head, whereunto he was come, and his most honest education from a child, or rather the holy law made and given by God: therefore he answered accordingly, and willed them straightways to send him to the grave.

24 For it cometh not out age, (said he) in any wife to dissemble, whereby many young persons might think that Eleazar being fourscore years old and ten, were now gone to a strange religion.

25 And so they through mine hypocrisy, and desire to live a little time, and a moment longer, should be deceived by me, and I get a stain to mine old age, and make it abominable.

26 For though for the present time I should be delivered from the punishment of men: yet should I not escape the hand of the Almighty neither alive, nor dead.

27 Wherefore now manfully changing this life, I will shew myself such an one as mine age requireth.

29. From a desperate mind.] Margin. Madness, or pride.

#### NOTES ON CHAP. VII.

Ver. 1. *It came to pass also that seven brethren, &c.* In this chapter we have a particular account of the martyrdom of a mother and her seven sons, who suffered with unparalleled constancy and firmness the most exquisite tortures that the invention of the tyrant Antiochus could furnish, for his executioners act, rather than violate a precept of their law, which forbade the eating of swine's flesh. So great was their veneration for the name of God, so noble their concern for the honour of his law, that life itself was a trifle of no account, when by their deaths God was to be glorified, and his law preserved inviolate. Such

2028 And leave a notable example to such as be young, to die willingly and courageously for the honourable and holy laws: and when he had said these words, immediately he went to the torment.

29 They that led him, changing the good-will they bare him a little before, into hatred, because the aforesaid speeches proceeded, as they thought, from a desperate mind.

30 But when he was ready to die with stripes, he groaned, and said, It is manifest unto the Lord, that hath the holy knowledge, that whereas I might have been delivered from death, I now endure sore pains in body, by being beaten: but in soul am well content to suffer these things, because I fear him.

31 And thus this man died, leaving his death for an example of a noble courage, and a memorial of virtue, not only unto young men but unto all his nation.

#### CHAP. VII.

*The constancy and cruel death of seven brethren and their mother in one day, because they would not eat swine's flesh at the king's commandment.*

**I**T came to pass also that seven brethren with their mother were taken and compelled by the king against the law to taste swine's flesh, and were tormented with scourges and whips.

2 But

are the principles of true heroism, neither voluntarily to court death, nor meanly to avoid it, by sacrificing a good cause and clear conscience, to preserve a short and transitory life. If we strictly examine the several answers which these generous youths made in the midst of their tortures to the tyrant's offers of life and pardon, on recanting their alleged errors, we must admire their piety, resolution, and courage. If we consider the extremity of their tortures, we must believe they were firmly persuaded of a happy immortality. In whatever view we contemplate their behaviour and sufferings, we find sufficient matter to raise veneration for their piety and bravery, and enough to excite us to an imitation of their virtues.



2 But one of them that spake first, said thus, What wouldest thou ask or learn of us? we are ready to die, rather than to transgress the laws of our fathers.

3 Then the king being in a rage, commanded pans and caldrons to be made hot.

4 Which forthwith being heated, he commanded to cut out the tongue of him that spake first, and to cut off the utmost parts of his body, the rest of his brethren and his mother looking on.

5 Now when he was thus maimed in all his members, he commanded him being yet alive to be brought to the fire, and to be fried in the pan: and as the vapour of the pan was for a good space dispersed, they exhorted one another with the mother to die manfully, saying thus.

6 The Lord God looketh upon us, and in truth hath comfort in us, as Moses in his song, which witnessed to their faces, declared, saying, And he shall be comforted in his servants.

7 So when the first was dead, after this manner, they brought the second to make him a mocking-stock: and when they had pulled of the skin of his head with the hair, they asked him, Wilt thou eat before thou be punished throughout every member of thy body?

8 But he answered in his own language, and said, No. Wherefore he also received the next torment in order, as the former did.

9 And when he was at the last gasp, he said, Thou like a fury takest us out of this present life, but the king of the world shall raise us up, who have died for his laws unto everlasting life.

10 After him was the third made a mocking-stock: and when he was required, he put out his tongue, and that right soon, holding forth his hands manfully.

11 And said courageously, These I had

front heaven, and for his laws I despise them, and from him I hope to receive them again.

12 Inasmuch that the king, and they that were with him, marvelled at the young man's courage, for that he nothing regarded the pains.

13 Now when this man was dead also, they tormented and mangled the fourth in like manner.

14 So when he was ready to die, he said thus, It is good, being put to death by men, to look for hope from God, to be raised up again by him: as for thee, thou shalt have no resurrection to life.

15 Afterward they brought the fifth also, and mangled him.

16 Then looked he unto the king, and said, Thou hast power over men, thou art corruptible, thou doest what thou wilt; yet think not that our nation is forsaken of God.

17 But abide a while, and behold his great power, how he will torment thee, and thy seed.

18 After him also they brought the sixth, who being ready to die, said, Be not deceived without cause: for we suffer these things for ourselves, having sinned against our God: therefore marvellous things are done unto us.

19 But think not thou that takest in hand to strive against God, that thou shalt escape unpunished.

20 But the mother was marvellous above all, and worthy of honourable memory: for when she saw her seven sons slain within the space of one day, she bare it with a good courage, because of the hope that she had in the Lord.

21 Yea, she exhorted every one of them in her own language, filled with courageous spirits; and stirring up her womanish thoughts with a manly stomach, she said unto them,

22 I cannot tell how you came into my womb; for I neither gave you breath nor life, neither was it I that formed the members of every one of you.

23 But doubtless the Creator of the world, who formed the generation of man, and found out the beginning of all things, will also of his own mercy give you breath and life again, as you now regard not your own selves for his laws sake.

24 Now Antiochus thinking himself despised, and suspecting it to be a reproachful speech, whilst the youngest was yet alive, did not only exhort him by words, but also assured him with oaths, that he would make him both a rich and a happy man, if he would turn from the laws of his fathers; and that also he would take him for his friend, and trust him with affairs.

25 But when the young man would in no case hearken unto him, the king called his mother, and exhorted her, that she would counsel the young man to save his life.

26 And when he had exhorted her with many words, she promised him that she would counsel her son.

27 But she bowing herself towards him, laughing the cruel tyrant to scorn, spake in her country language on this manner, O my son have pity upon me that bare thee nine months in my womb, and gave thee suck three years, and nourished thee, and brought thee up unto this age, and endured the troubles of education.

28 I beseech thee, my son, look upon the heaven, and the earth, and all that is therein, and consider that God made them of things that were not; and so was mankind made likewise.

29 Fear not this tormentor, but being worthy of thy brethren, take thy death, that I may receive thee again in mercy with thy brethren.

30 Whiles she was yet speaking these

words, the young man said, Whom wait ye for? I will not obey the king's commandment: but I will obey the commandment of the law that was given unto our fathers by Moses.

31 And thou that hast been the author of all mischief against the Hebrews, shalt not escape the hands of God.

32 For we suffer because of our sins.

33 And though the living Lord be angry with us a little while for our chastening and correction, yet shall he be at one again with his servants.

34 But thou, O godless man, and of all other most wicked, be not lifted up without a cause, nor puffed up with uncertain hopes, lifting up thy hand against the servants of God.

35 For thou hast not yet escaped the judgment of Almighty God, who seeth all things.

36 For our brethren who now have suffered a short pain, are dead under God's covenant of everlasting life: but thou, through the judgment of God, shalt receive just punishment for thy pride.

37 But I, as my brethren, offer up my body and life for the laws of our fathers, beseeching God that he would speedily be merciful unto our nation, and that thou by torments and plagues mayest confess, that he alone is God;

38 And that in me, and my brethren, the wrath of the Almighty, which is justly brought upon our nation, may cease.

39 Then the king being in a rage, handled him worse than all the rest, and took it grievously that he was mocked.

40 So this man died undefiled, and put his whole trust in the Lord.

41 Last of all after the sons, the mother died.

42 Let this be enough now to have spoken concerning the idolatrous feasts, and the extreme tortures.



## CHAP. VIII.

1 *Judas gathereth an host, 9 Nicanor is sent against him: who presumeth to make much money of his prisoners. 16 Judas encourageth his men, and putteth Nicanor to flight: 28 and divideth the spoils. 30 Other enemies are also defeated, 35 and Nicanor fleeth with grief to Antioch.*

**T**HEN Judas Maccabeus, and they that were with him, went privily into the towns, and called their kinsfolks together, and took unto them all such as continued in the Jews religion, and assembled about fix thousand men.

2 And they called upon the Lord, that he would look upon the people that was trodden down of all, and also pity the temple, profaned of ungodly men,

3 And that he would have compassion upon the city, sore defaced and ready to be made even with the ground, and hear the blood that cried unto him.

4 And remember the wicked slaughter of harmless infants, and the blasphemies committed against his name, and that he would shew his hatred against the wicked.

5 Now when Maccabeus had his company about him, he could not be withstood by the heathen: for the wrath of the Lord was turned into mercy.

6 Therefore he came at unawares, and burnt up towns and cities, and got into his hands the most commodious places, and overcame and put to flight no small number of his enemies.

7 But specially took he advantage of the night, for such privy attempts, inasmuch that the bruit of his manliness was spread every where.

8 So when Philip saw that this man increased by little and little, and that things prospered with him still more and more, he wrote unto Ptolemeus the governor of Celosyria and Phenice, to yield more aid to the king's affairs.

9 Then forthwith choosing Nicanor the son of Patroclus, one of his special friends, he sent him with no fewer than twenty thousand of all nations under him, to root out the whole generation of the Jews; and with him he joined also Gorgias a captain, who in matters of war had great experience.

10 So Nicanor undertook to make so much money of the captive Jews, as should defray the tribute of two thousand talents, which the king was to pay to the Romans.

11 Wherefore immediately he sent to the cities upon the sea-coast, proclaiming a sale of the captive Jews, and promising that they should have fourscore and ten bodies for one talent, not expecting the vengeance that was to follow upon him from the Almighty God.

12 Now when word was brought unto Judas of Nicanor's coming, and he had imparted unto those that were with him, that the army was at hand,

13 They that were fearful, and distrusted the justice of God, fled and conveyed themselves away.

14 Others sold all that they had left, and withal besought the Lord to deliver them, being sold by the wicked Nicanor before they met together.

15 And if not for their own sakes, yet for the covenants he had made with their fathers, and for his holy and glorious name's

## NOTES on Chap. VIII.

Ver. 1 *Then Judas Maccabeus, and they that were with him, &c.*] The author having concluded his account of the idolatrous feast, at which the poor Jews were compelled to be present, and assist; and likewise of the inhuman cru-

elties exercised on those whose faith and resolution were strong enough to outbrave all the tyrant's barbarities, in this chapter begins his narrative of the noble exploits performed by Judas Maccabeus, in defence of their laws, religion, and country.

name's sake, by which they were called.

16 So Maccabeus called his men together, unto the number of six thousand, and exhorted them not to be stricken with terror of the enemy, nor to fear the great multitude of the heathen, who came wrongfully against them, but to fight manfully.

17 And to set before their eyes the injury that they had unjustly done to the holy place, and the cruel handling of the city, whereof they made a mockery, and also the taking away of the government of their forefathers :

18 For they *(said he)* trust in their weapons, and boldness ; but our confidence is in the Almighty God, who at a beck can cast down both them that come against us, and also all the world.

19 Moreover, he recounted unto them what helps their forefathers had found, and how they were delivered, when under Sennacherib an hundred fourscore and five thousand perished.

20 And he told them of the battle that they had in Babylon with the Galatians, how they came but eight thousand in all to the business, with four thousand Macedonians, and that the Macedonians being perplexed, the eight thousand destroyed an hundred and twenty thousand, because of the help that they had from heaven, and so received a great booty.

21 Thus when he had made them bold with these words, and ready to die for the laws, and the country, he divided his army into four parts :

22 And joined with himself his own brethren, leaders of each band, *to wit,* Simon, and Joseph, and Jonathan, giving each one fifteen hundred men.

23 Also *he appointed* Eleazar to read the holy book : and when he had given them this watch-word, The help of God ; himself leading the first band, he joined battle with Nicanor.

24 And by the help of the Almighty, they slew above nine thousand of their enemies, and wounded and maimed the most part of Nicanor's host, and so put all to flight.

25 And took their money that came to buy them, and pursued them far : but lacking time, they returned.

26 For it was the day before the sabbath, and therefore they would no longer pursue them.

27 So when they had gathered their armour together, and spoiled their enemies, they occupied themselves about the sabbath, yielding exceeding praise and thanks to the Lord, who had preserved them unto that day, which was the beginning of mercy distilling upon them.

28 And after the sabbath, when they had given part of the spoils to the maimed and the widows, and orphans, the residue they divided among themselves and their servants.

29 When this was done, and they had made a common supplication, they besought the merciful Lord to be reconciled with his servants for ever.

30 Moreover, of those that were with Timotheus, and Bacchides, who fought against them, they slew above twenty thousand, and very easily got high and strong holds, and divided amongst themselves many spoils more, and made the maimed, orphans, widows, yea, and the aged also, equal in spoils with themselves.

31 And when they had gathered their  
armour

27 *Their armour.* i. e. The enemy's armour.

28 *To be maimed.* Marginal, To the lamed with tortures.

30 *The maimed.* The lamed, as in verse 28.



armour together, they laid them up all carefully in convenient places, and the remnant of the spoils they brought to Jerusalem.

32 They slew also Philarches that wicked person, who was with Timotheus, and had annoyed the Jews many ways.

33 Furthermore, at such time as they kept the feast for the victory in their country, they burnt Calisthenes that had set fire upon the holy gates, who was fled into a little house, and so he received a reward meet for his wickedness.

34 As for that most ungracious Nicanor, who had brought a thousand merchants to buy the Jews,

35 He was through the help of the Lord brought down by them of whom he made least account, and putting off his glorious apparel, and discharging his company, he came like a fugitive servant through the midland unto Antioch, having very great dishonour, for that his host was destroyed.

36 Thus he that took upon him to make good to the Romans their tribute, by means of the captives in Jerusalem, told abroad, that the Jews had God to fight for them, and therefore they could not be hurt, because they followed the laws that he gave them.

#### CHAP. IX.

1 *Antiochus is chased from Persopolis: 5 He is stricken with a sore disease, 14 and promiseth to become a Jew: 23 He dieth miserably.*

**A**BOUT that time came Antiochus, with dishonour out of the country of Persia.

2 For he had entered the city called

Persopolis, and went about to rob the temple, and to hold the city, whereupon the multitude running to defend themselves with their weapons, put them to flight; and so it happened, that Antiochus being put to flight of the inhabitants, returned with shame.

3 Now when he came to Ecbatana, news was brought him what had happened unto Nicanor and Timotheus.

4 Then swelling with anger, he thought to avenge upon the Jews the disgrace done unto him by those that made him flee. Therefore commanded he his chariotman to drive without ceasing, and to dispatch the journey, the judgment of God now following him. For he had spoken proudly in this sort, that he would come to Jerusalem, and make it a common burying-place of the Jews.

5 But the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, smote him with an incurable and invisible plague: for as soon as he had spoken these words, a pain of the bowels that was remediless, came upon him, and sore torments of the inner parts;

6 And that most justly: for he had tormented other men's bowels with many and strange torments.

7 Howbeit, he nothing at all ceased from his bragging, but still was filled with pride, breathing out fire in his rage against the Jews, and commanding to haste the journey; but it came to pass that he fell down from his chariot, carried violently, so that having a sore fall, all the members of his body were much pained.

8 And thus he that a little afore thought he might command the waves of the

#### NOTES on Chap. IX.

Ver. 1 *About that time came Antiochus, with dishonour, &c.]* Margin, or disorderly.—These ill successes of the arms of Antiochus, employed in Judea, were not the

only misfortunes that befel that monarch; for about the same time, he himself, with the forces under his command in Persia, was forced to abandon his enterprizes there, being shamefully routed in attempting to rob the temple, and plunder the city of Persopolis.

the sea, (so proud was he beyond the condition of man), and weigh the high mountains in a balance, was now cast on the ground, and carried in an horse-litter, shewing forth unto all the manifest power of God.

9 So that the worms rose up out of the body of this wicked man, and whiles he lived in sorrow and pain, his flesh fell away, and the filthiness of his smell was noisome to all his army.

10 And the man that thought a little afore he could reach to the stars of heaven, no man could endure to carry for his intolerable stink.

11 Here therefore being plagued, he began to leave off his great pride, and to come to the knowledge of himself, by the scourge of God, his pain increasing every moment.

12 And when he himself could not abide his own smell, he said these words, It is meet to be subject unto God, and that a man that is mortal, should not proudly think of himself, as if he were God.

13 This wicked person vowed also unto the Lord, (who now no more would have mercy upon him) saying thus,

14 That the holy city (to the which he was going in haste to lay it, even with the ground, and to make it a common burying place) he would set at liberty.

15 And as touching the Jews, whom he had judged not worthy to be so much as buried, but to be cast out with their children to be devoured of the fowls and wild beasts, he would make them all equal to the citizens of Athens.

16 And the holy temple which before he had spoiled, he would garnish with goodly gifts, and restore all the holy vessels with many more, and out of his own reve-

nue defray the charges belonging to the sacrifices:

17 Yea, and that also he would become a Jew himself, and go through all the world that was inhabited, and declare the power of God.

18 But for all this, his pains would not cease: for the just judgment of God was come upon him: therefore despairing of his health, he wrote unto the Jews, the letters underwritten, containing the form of a supplication, after this manner:

19 Antiochus king and governor, to the good Jews his citizens, wisheth much joy, health, and prosperity.

20 If ye and your children fare well, and your affairs be to your contentment, I give very great thanks to God, having my hope in heaven.

21 As for me, I was weak, or else I would have remembered kindly your honour, and good will. Returning out of Persia, and being taken with a grievous disease, I thought it necessary to care for the common safety of all:

22 Not distrusting mine health, but having great hope to escape this sickness.

23 But considering that even my father, at what time he led an army into the high countries, appointed a successor,

24 To the end, that if any thing fell out contrary to expectation, or if any tidings were brought that were grievous, they of the land knowing to whom the state was left, might not be troubled.

25 Again, considering how that the princes that are borderers and neighbours unto my kingdom wait for opportunities, and expect what shall be the event, I have appointed my son Antiochus king, whom I often committed and commended unto many of you, when I went up into the

4 I high

15 *Atheni.*] Margin, Antioch.

24 *The state.*] Margin, Common affairs.



high provinces; to whom I have written as followeth.

26 Therefore I pray and request you to remember the benefits that I have done unto you generally, and in special, and that every man will be still faithful to me and my son.

27 For I am persuaded that he understanding my mind, will favourably and graciously yield to your desires.

28 Thus the murderer and blasphemer having suffered most grievously, as he mistreated other men, so died he a miserable death in a strange country in the mountains.

29 And Philip that was brought up with him, carried away his body, who also fearing the son of Antiochus, went into Egypt to Ptolemy Philometor.

#### CHAP. X.

1 Judas recovereth the city, and purifieth the temple.

14 Gorgias vexeth the Jews.

16 Judas winneth their holds.

29 Timotheus and his men are discomfited.

35 Gazara is taken, and Timotheus slain.

**N**OW Maccabeus and his company, the Lord guiding them, recovered the temple, and the city.

2 But the altars which the heathen had built in the open street, and also the chapels they pulled down.

3 And having cleansed the temple,

they made another altar, and striking stones, they took fire out of them, and offered a sacrifice after two years, and set forth incense, and lights, and shewed bread.

4 When that was done, they fell flat down, and besought the Lord that they might come no more into such troubles; but if they sinned any more against him, that he himself would chasten them with mercy, and that they might not be delivered unto the blasphemous and barbarous nations.

5 Now upon the same day that the strangers profaned the temple, on the very same day it was cleansed again, even the five and twentieth day of the same month, which is Casleu.

6 And they kept eight days with gladness, as in the feast of the tabernacles, remembering that not long afore they had held the feast of the tabernacles, when as they wandered in the mountains and dens like beasts.

7 Therefore they bare branches, and fair boughs, and palms also; and sang psalms unto him that had given them good success in cleansing his place.

8 They ordained also by a common statute and decree, That every year those days should be kept of the whole nation of the Jews.

9 And this was the end of Antiochus, called Epiphanes.

10 Now

27 Understanding my mind.] Margin, Following.

28 He died a miserable death.] In this story of the death of Antiochus, we are to observe how widely it differs from the account we read concerning this affair in the sixth chapter of the first book of Maccabees, where we find that upon receiving the bad news of the overthrow of his armies in Judea, his grief and vexation threw him into a fit of sickness, whereof he died, acknowledging the justice of God in punishing him for his wicked and cruel practices against the Jews.

#### NOTES on Chap. X.

Ver. 1 Now Maccabeus and his company, the Lord guiding them, recovered the temple, and the city.] Judas, having already met with great success in all his enterprises against the enemy in the country, leads his forces to Jerusalem, and recovers the city and temple out of the hands of the heathen, destroys the altar devoted to idolatrous worship, and pulls down the chapels erected for the same impious services, cleanses the temple from the impurities with

10 Now will we declare the acts of Antiochus Eupator, who was the son of this wicked man, gathering briefly the calamities of the wars.

11 So when he was come to the crown, he set one Lysias over the affairs of his realm, and appointed him chief governor of Celosyria and Phenice.

12 For Ptolemeus that was called Macron, choosing rather to do justice unto the Jews, for the wrong that had been done unto them, endeavoured to continue peace with them.

13 Whereupon being accused of the king's friends, before Eupator, and called traitor at every word, because he had left Cyprus, that Philometor had committed unto him, and departed to Antiochus Epiphanes, and seeing that he was in no honourable place, he was so discouraged that he poisoned himself and died.

14 But when Gorgias was governor of the holds, he hired soldiers, and nourished war continually with the Jews.

15 And therewithal the Idumeans having gotten into their hands the most commodious holds, kept the Jews occupied, and receiving those that were banished from Jerusalem, they went about to nourish war.

16 Then they that were with Maccabeus made supplication, and besought God that he would be their helper, and so they ran with violence upon the strong holds of the Idumeans.

17 And assaulting them strongly, they wan the holds, and kept off all that fought upon the wall, and slew all that fell into

which the heathen had polluted it, builds a new altar, and renews the sacrifices and ceremonial rites, after two years intermission.

10 Now will we declare, &c.] The author proceeds next to relate the exploits and actions of Antiochus Eupator, the son of Antiochus Epiphanes.

13 Seeing that he was in no honourable place.] Margin.

their hands, and killed no fewer than twenty thousand.

18 And because certain (who were no less than nine thousand) were fled together into two very strong castles, having all manner of things convenient to sustain the siege,

19 Maccabeus left Simon and Joseph, and Zaccheus also, and them that were with him, who were enough to besiege them, and departed himself unto those places which more needed his help.

20 Now they that were with Simon, being led with covetousness, were persuaded for money (through certain of those that were in the castle) and took seventy thousand drachms, and let some of them escape.

21 But when it was told Maccabeus what was done, he called the governors of the people together, and accused those men that they had sold their brethren for money, and set their enemies free to fight against them.

22 So he slew those that were found traitors, and immediately took the two castles.

23 And having good success with his weapons in all things he took in hand, he slew in the two holds more than twenty thousand.

24 Now Timotheus, whom the Jews had overcome before, when he had gathered a great multitude of foreign forces, and horses out of Asia not a few, came as though he would take Jewry by force of arms.

25 But when he drew near, they that were with Maccabeus, turned themselves to

reads, And not bearing his authority as it becometh a noble man.

14 The holds.] Margin. The strong places.

20 Now they.] Or, Simon.

25 They that were with Maccabeus.] Margin. Maccabeus, and they that were with him.



to pray unto God, and sprinkled earth upon their heads, and girded their loins with sackcloth.

26 And fell down at the foot of the altar, and besought him to be merciful to them, and to be an enemy to their enemies, and an adversary to their adversaries, as the law declareth.

27 So after the prayer, they took their weapons, and went on further from the city: and when they drew near to their enemies, they kept by themselves.

28 Now the sun being newly risen, they joined both together; the one part having together with their virtue, their refuge also unto the Lord, for a pledge of their success and victory: the other side making their rage leader of their battle.

29 But when the battle waxed strong, there appeared unto the enemies from heaven, five comely men upon horses, with bridles of gold, and two of them led the Jews,

30 And took Maccabeus betwixt them, and covered him on every side with their weapons, and kept him safe, but shot arrows and lightnings against the enemies: so that being confounded with blindness, and full of trouble, they were killed.

31 And there were slain of footmen twenty thousand and five hundred, and six hundred horsemen.

32 As for Timotheus himself, he fled into a very strong hold, called Gazara, where Chereas was governor.

33 But they that were with Maccabeus, laid siege against the fortress courageously four days.

34 And they that were within, trusting to the strength of the place, blasphemed exceedingly, and uttered wicked words.

35 Nevertheless, upon the fifth day early, twenty young men of Maccabeus company, inflamed with anger because of the blasphemies, assaulted the wall manly, and with a fierce courage killed all that they met withal.

36 Others likewise ascending after them, whiles they were busied with them that were within, burnt the towers, and kindling fires, burnt the blasphemers alive; and others broke open the gates, and having received in the rest of the army, took the city.

37 And killed Timotheus, that was hid in a certain pit, and Chereas his brother, with Apollophanes.

38 When this was done, they praised the Lord with psalms and thanksgiving, who had done so great things for Israel, and given them the victory.

#### C H A P. XI.

3 *Lyfias thinking to get Jerusalem, 8 is put to flight. 16 The letters of Lyfias to the Jews: 22 Of the king unto Lyfias, 27 and to the Jews: 34 Of the Romans to the Jews.*

**N**OT long after this, Lyfias the king's protector and cousin, who also managed

28 *For a pledge.]* Margin, Warrant, or surety.

#### NOTES on Chap. XI.

Ver 1. *Not long after this, Lyfias the king's protector, &c.]* The news of the great successes of Judas, reaching the ears of Lyfias, who was the guardian, or as in the margin, tutor to the young king Antiochus, was very much chagrined at the misfortune that had attended the arms of his master in Judea. Upon which mustering a vast army, he marches against the Jews, not only to revenge the disgraces former generals had suffered from that people, but

to enrich himself with their spoils. Judas and his men, having intelligence of this, supplicate God for deliverance from the evils which threatened them; in answer to whose prayers, and as a token of the great things God intended to do for them, he causes them to see the apparition of a man on horseback, clad in armour of gold, at the head of their troops, as they were marching out of the city; and as it were leading them on against the enemy. This now inspired them with such courage and resolution, that nothing seemed too great for them to attempt. In this disposition they made a furious onset on

naged the affairs, took sore displeasure for the things that were done.

2 And when he had gathered about fourscore thousand with all the horsemen, he came against the Jews, thinking to make the city an habitation of the Gentiles.

3 And to make a gain of the temple, as of the other chapels of the heathen, and to set the high-priesthood to sale every year :

4 Not at all considering the power of God, but puffed up with his ten thousands of his footmen and his thousands of horsemen, and his fourscore elephants.

5 So he came to Judea, and drew near to Bethsura, which was a strong town, but distant from Jerusalem about five furlongs, and he laid sore siege unto it.

6 Now when they that were with Maccabeus heard that he besieged the holds, they and all the people with lamentation and tears besought the Lord that he would send a good angel to deliver Israel.

7 Then Maccabeus himself first of all took weapons, exhorting the other, that they would jeopard themselves together with him to help their brethren : so they went forth together with a willing mind.

8 And as they were at Jerusalem, there appeared before them on horseback, one in white clothing, shaking his armour of gold.

9 Then they praised the merciful God altogether, and took heart, insomuch that they were ready not only to fight with men, but with most cruel beasts, and to pierce through walls of iron.

10 Thus they marched forward in their

armour, having an helper from heaven : for the Lord was merciful unto them.

11 And giving a charge upon their enemies, like lions, they slew eleven thousand footmen, and sixteen hundred horsemen, and put all the other to flight.

12 Many of them also being wounded, escaped naked ; and Lyfias himself fled away shamefully, and so escaped.

13 Who as he was a man of understanding, casting with himself what loss he had had, and considering that the Hebrews could not be overcome, because the Almighty God helped them, he sent unto them,

14 And persuaded them to agree to all reasonable conditions, and promised that he would persuade the king, that he must needs be a friend unto them.

15 Then Maccabeus consented to all that Lyfias desired, being careful of the common good ; and whatsoever Maccabeus wrote unto Lyfias concerning the Jews, the king granted it.

16 For there were letters written unto the Jews from Lyfias to this effect : Lyfias unto the people of the Jews *sendeth* greeting.

17 John and Absalon, who were sent from you, delivered me the petition subscribed, and made request for the performance of the contents thereof.

18 Therefore what things soever were meet to be reported to the king, I have declared them, and he hath granted as much as might be.

19 If then you will keep yourselves loyal to the state, hereafter also will I endeavour to be a means of your good.

20 But of the particulars, I have given  
4 K order,

their enemies, and defeated them with a dreadful slaughter, Lyfias himself hardly escaping with his life.

o *The Gentiles.* Margin, Grecians.

6 *They that were with Maccabeus.* Margin, Maccabeus and his company.



order, both to these, and the other that shall have safe conduct, till the thirtieth day of Xanthicus with security.

21 Fare ye well. The hundred and eight and fortieth year, the four and twentieth day of the month Diofcorinthius.

22 Now the king's letter contained these words: King Antiochus unto his brother Lyfias sendeth greeting.

23 Since our father is translated unto the gods, our will is, that they that are in our realm live quietly, that every one may attend upon his own affairs.

24 We understand also that the Jews would not consent to our father, for to be brought unto the custom of the Gentiles, but had rather keep their own manner of living: for the which cause they require of us, that we should suffer them to live after their own laws.

25 Wherefore our mind is, that this nation shall be in rest, and we have determined to restore them their temple, that they may live according to the customs of their forefathers.

26 Thou shalt do well therefore to send unto them, and grant them peace, that when they are certified of our mind, they may be of good comfort, and ever go cheerfully about their own affairs.

27 And the letter of the king unto the nation of the Jews was after this manner: King Antiochus sendeth greeting unto the council, and the rest of the Jews.

28 If ye fare well, we have our desire, we are also in good health.

29 Menelaus declared unto us, that your desire was to return home, and to follow your own business:

30 Wherefore they that will depart

31 And the Jews shall use their own kind of meats and laws, as before; and none of them any manner of ways shall be molested for things ignorantly done.

32 I have sent also Menelaus, that he may comfort you.

33 Fare ye well. In the hundred forty and eighth year, and in the fifteenth day of the month Xanthicus.

34 The Romans also sent unto them a letter containing these words: Quintus Memmius, and Titus Manlius, ambassadors of the Romans, send greeting unto the people of the Jews.

35 Whatsoever Lyfias the king's cousin hath granted, therewith we also are well pleased.

36 But touching such things as he judged to be referred to the king, after you have advised thereof, send one forthwith, that we may declare as it is convenient for you: for we are now going to Antioch.

37 Therefore send some with speed, that we may know what is your mind.

38 Farewell. This hundred and eight and fortieth year, the fifteenth day of the month Xanthicus.

## CHAP. XII.

1 The king's lieutenants vex the Jews.

3 They of Joppa drown two hundred Jews. 6 Judas is avenged upon them:

11 He maketh peace with the Arabians;

16 and taketh Caspis. 22 Timotheus's armies overthrown.

WHEN these covenants were made, Lyfias went unto the king, and the Jews were about their husbandry.

2 But

21 The month Diofcorinthius.] Margin, Dioscorus.

26 Grant them peace.] Margin, Give them assurance.

33 Xanthicus.] Margin, April.

34 Ambassadors.] Margin, Consuls.

## NOTES on Chap. XII.

Ver. 1 When these covenants were made, Lyfias, &c.]. Notwithstanding the treaty of peace so lately concluded,

- 2 But of the governors of several places, Judas Timotheus, no fewer than five thousand men, and five hundred horsemen of the Arabians set upon him.
- 3 Whereupon there was a very sore battle; but Judas, by the help of God, got the victory, so that the Nomades of Arabia being overcome, besought Judas for peace, promising both to give him cattle, and to pleasure him otherwise.
- 4 Then Judas, thinking indeed that they would be profitable in many things, granted them peace: whereupon they shook hands, and so they departed to their tents.
- 5 He went also about to make a bridge to a certain strong city, which was fenced about with walls, and inhabited by people of divers countries; and the name of it was Caspis.
- 6 But they that were within it, put such trust in the strength of the walls, and provision of victuals, that they behaved themselves rudely towards them that were with Judas, railing and blaspheming, and uttering such words as were not to be spoken.
- 7 Wherefore Judas, with his company, calling upon the great Lord of the world (who without any rams or engines of war, did cast down Jericho in the time of Joshua) gave a fierce assault against the walls,
- 8 And took the city by the will of God, and made unspeakable slaughters, insomuch that a lake two furlongs broad, near adjoining thereunto, being filled full, was seen running with blood.
- 9 Then departed they from thence seven hundred and fifty furlongs, and came to Gharaca unto the Jews that are called Tubieni.
- 10 But as for Timotheus, they found him
- 11 Who accepted of it according to the common decree of the city, as being desirous to live in peace, and suspecting nothing: but when they were gone forth into the deep, they drowned no less than two hundred of them.
- 12 When Judas heard of this cruelty done unto his countrymen, he commanded those that were with him, to make them ready.
- 13 And calling upon God the righteous judge, he came against those murderers of his brethren, and burnt the haven by night, and set the boats on fire, and those that fled thither he slew.
- 14 And when the town was shut up, he went backward, as if he would return to root out all them of the city of Joppe.
- 15 But when he heard that the Jamnites were minded to do in like manner unto the Jews that dwelt among them,
- 16 He came upon the Jamnites also by night, and set fire on the haven and the navy, so that the light of the fire was seen at Jerusalem, two hundred and forty furlongs off.
- 17 Now when they were gone from thence nine furlongs, in their journey to-

the king's governors in Judea would not suffer the Jews to enjoy the fruits of it, but harassed them with the utmost cruelty; which provoked Judas to revenge their cause.

7 *As if he would return.*] Margin, With a purpose to return.

12 *Departed to their tents.*] Went from place to place with their families and cattle.



him not in the places: for before he had dispatched any thing, he departed from thence, having left a very strong garrison in a certain hold.

19 Howbeit, Dositheus and Sosipater, who were of Maccabeus his captains, went forth, and slew those that Timotheus had left in the fortress, above ten thousand men.

20 And Maccabeus ranged his army by bands, and set them over the bands, and went against Timotheus, who had about him an hundred and twenty thousand men of foot, and two thousand and five hundred horsemen.

21 Now when Timotheus had knowledge of Judas coming, he sent the women and children, and the other baggage unto a fortress called Carnion: (for the town was hard to besiege, and uneasy to come unto, by reason of the straitness of all the places)

22 But when Judas his first band came in sight, the enemies (being smitten with fear and terror, through the appearing of him that seeth all things) fled amain, one running this way, another that way, so as that they were often hurt of their own men, and wounded with the points of their own swords.

23 Judas also was very earnest in pursuing them, killing those wicked wretches, of whom he slew about thirty thousand men.

24 Moreover, Timotheus himself fell into the hands of Dositheus and Sosipater, whom he besought with much craft to let him go with his life, because he had many of the Jews parents, and the brethren of some of them, who, if they had put him to death, should not be regarded.

25 So when he had assured them with many words, that he would restore them without hurt, according to the agreement, they let him go for the saving of their brethren.

26 Then Maccabeus marched forth to Carnion, and to the temple of Atargatis, and there he slew five and twenty thousand persons.

27 And after he had put to flight, and destroyed them, Judas removed the host towards Ephron, a strong city, wherein Lysias abode, and a great multitude of divers nations, and the strong young men kept the walls, and defended them mightily: wherein also was great provision of engines and darts.

28 But when Judas and his company had called upon Almighty God (who with his power breaketh the strength of his enemies) they won the city, and slew twenty and five thousand of them that were within.

29 From thence they departed to Sythopolis, which lieth six hundred furlongs from Jerusalem.

30 But when the Jews that dwelt there had testified that the Sythopolitans dealt lovingly with them, and intreated them kindly in the time of their adversity;

31 They gave them thanks, desiring them to be friendly still unto them: and so they came to Jerusalem, the feast of the weeks approaching.

32 And after the feast called Pentecost, they went forth against Gorgias the governor of Idumea,

33 Who came out with three thousand men of foot, and four hundred horsemen.

34 And it happened, that in their fighting together, a few of the Jews were slain.

35 At which time, Dositheus, one of Bacenor's

20 *Set them.*] i. e. Dositheus and Sosipater.

21 *Carnion.*] 1 Macc. v. 43. Carnaim.

26 *The temple of Atargatis.*] Margin, Venus.

32 *Idumea.*] 1 Macc. v. 58. reads Jamnia.

Bacenor's company, who was on horseback, and a strong man, was still upon Gorgias, and taking hold of his coat, drew him by force; and when he would have taken that cursed man alive, a horseman of Thracia coming upon him, smote off his shoulder, so that Gorgias fled unto Marisa.

36 Now when they that were with Gorgias had fought long, and were weary, Judas called upon the Lord, that he would shew himself to be their helper, and leader of the battle.

37 And with that he began in his own language, and sung psalms with a loud voice, and rushing unawares upon Gorgias men, he put them to flight.

38 So Judas gathered his host, and came into the city Odollam. And when the seventh day came, they purified themselves (as the custom was) and kept the sabbath in the same place.

39 And upon the day following, as the use had been, Judas and his company came to take up the bodies of them that were slain, and to bury them with their kinsmen in their fathers graves.

40 Now under the coats of every one that was slain; they found things consecrated to the idols of the Jamnites, which is forbidden the Jews by the law. Then every man saw that this was the cause wherefore they were slain.

41 All men therefore praising the Lord the righteous Judge, who had opened the things that were hid,

42 Betook themselves unto prayer, and besought him, that the sin committed

might wholly be put out of remembrance. Besides, that noble Judas exhorted the people to keep themselves from sin, forasmuch as they saw before their eyes the things that came to pass for the sins of those that were slain.

43 And when he had made a gathering throughout the company, to the sum of two thousand drachms of silver, he sent it to Jerusalem to offer a sin-offering, doing therein very well, and honestly, in that he was mindful of the resurrection.

44 (For if he had not hoped that they that were slain, should have risen again, it had been superfluous and vain to pray for the dead)

45 And also in that he perceived that there was great favour laid up for those that died godly. (It was an holy and good thought) Whereupon he made a reconciliation for the dead, that they might be delivered from sin.

#### C H A P. XIII.

1 Eupator invadeth Judea. 15 Judas by night slayeth many. 18 Eupator's purpose is defeated: 23 He maketh peace with Judas.

**I**N the hundred forty and ninth year it was told Judas, that Antiochus Eupator was coming with a great power into Judea.

2 And with him Lyfias his protector, and ruler of his affairs, having either of them a Grecian power of footmen, an hundred and ten thousand, and horsemen five thousand and three hundred, and elephants

4 L

phants

35 Smote off his shoulder.] Margin, Wounded him in the shoulder.

36 With Gorgias.] Or, Esdras.

39 As the use had been.] Margin, At such time, &c.

#### NOTES ON CHAP. XIII.

Ver. 1 In the hundred forty and ninth year, &c.] Antio-

chus, with Lyfias, his tutor and prime minister, having gathered together a great number of horse, foot, elephants, and chariots, marched to invade Judea, being instigated thereto by Menelaus, with a view to his own obtaining it. Lyfias knew the character of the man so well, that he quickly saw through his dissimulation, and so reported his former actions and behaviour to the king, who



phants two and twenty, and three hundred chariots armed with hooks.

3 Menelaus also joined himself with them, and with great dissimulation encouraged Antiochus, not for the safeguard of the country, but because he thought to have been made governor.

4 But the king of kings moved Antiochus mind against this wicked wretch, and Lysias informed the king that this man was the cause of all mischief, so that the king commanded to bring him unto Berea, and to put him to death, as the manner is in that place.

5 Now there was in that place a tower of fifty cubits high, full of ashes, and it had a round instrument which on every side hanged down into the ashes.

6 And whosoever was condemned of sacrilege, or had committed any other grievous crime, there did all men thrust him unto death.

7 Such a death it happened that wicked man to die, not having so much as burial in the earth, and that most justly.

8 For inasmuch as he had committed many sins about the altar, whose fire and ashes were holy, he received his death in ashes.

9 Now the king came with a barbarous and haughty mind, to do far worse to the Jews than had been done in his father's time.

10 Which things when Judas perceived, he commanded the multitude to call upon the Lord night and day, that if ever at any other time, he would now also help them, being at the point to be put from their law, from their country, and from the holy temple:

11 And that he would not suffer the people, that had even now been but a little refreshed, to be in subjection to the blasphemous nations.

12 So when they had all done this together, and besought the merciful Lord with weeping and fasting, and lying flat upon the ground three days long, Judas having exhorted them, commanded they should be in a readiness.

13 And Judas being apart with the elders, determined, before the king's host should enter into Judaea, and get the city, to go forth and try the matter in fight by the help of the Lord.

14 So when he had committed all to the Creator of the world, and exhorted his soldiers to fight manfully, even unto death, for the laws, the temple, the city, the country, and the common-wealth, he camped by Modin.

15 And having given the watch-word to them that were about him, Victory is of God: with the most valiant and choicest young men, he went in into the king's tent by night, and slew in the camp about four thousand men, and the chiefest of the elephants, with all that were upon him.

16 And at last they filled the camp with fear and tumult, and departed with good success.

17 This was done in the break of the day, because the protection of the Lord did help him.

18 Now when the king had taken a taste of the manliness of the Jews, he went about to take the holds by policy,

19 And marched towards Bethsura, which was a strong hold of the Jews: but he was put to flight, failed, and lost of his men.

20 For

to prevent his perpetrating any further mischief, and as a just punishment of his former crimes, orders him to be carried to Berea, and there put to death.

11 *That had been but a little refreshed.*] Or, had had a little respite.

14 *Creator.*] Or, Lord.

20 For Judas had conveyed unto them that were in it, such things as were necessary.

21 But Rhodocus, who was in the Jews host, disclosed the secrets to the enemies; therefore he was sought out, and when they had gotten him, they put him in prison.

22 The king treated with them in Bethsura the second time, gave his hand, took theirs, departed, fought with Judas, was overcome;

23 Heard that Philip, who was left over the affairs in Antioch, was desperately bent, confounded, intreated the Jews, submitted himself, and swore to all equal conditions, agreed with them, and offered sacrifice, honoured the temple, and dealt kindly with the place,

24 And accepted well of Maccabeus, made him principal governor from Ptolemais unto the Gerthenians;

25 Came to Ptolemais; the people there were grieved for the covenants; for they stormed, because they would make their covenants void.

26 Lysias went up to the judgment-seat, said as much as could be in defence of the cause, persuaded, pacified, made them well affected, returned to Antioch. Thus it went touching the king's coming and departing.

#### CHAP. XIV.

6 *Alcimus accuseth Judas. 18 Nicanor maketh peace with Judas: 39 He seeketh to take Razis, 46 who, to escape his hands, killeth himself.*

AFTER three years was Judas informed, that Demetrius the son of Se-

leucus, having entered by the haven of Tripolis with a great power and navy,

2 Had taken the country, and killed Antiochus, and Lysias his protector.

3 Now one Alcimus, who had been high priest, and had defiled himself wilfully in the times of their mingling with the Gentiles, seeing that by no means he could save himself, nor have any more access to the holy altar,

4 Came to king Demetrius in the hundred and one and fiftieth year, presenting unto him a crown of gold, and a palm, and also of the boughs which were used solemnly in the temple: and so that day he held his peace.

5 Howbeit, having gotten opportunity to further his foolish enterprize, and being called into counsel by Demetrius, and asked how the Jews stood affected, and what they intended, he answered thereunto.

6 Those of the Jews that be called Assideans (whose captain is Judas Maccabeus) nourish war, and are seditious, and will not let the realm be in peace.

7 Therefore I, being deprived of mine ancestors honour (I mean the high priesthood) am now come hither;

8 First, verily for the unfeigned care I have of things pertaining to the king, and secondly, even for that I intend the good of mine own countrymen: for all our nation is in no small misery, through the unadvised dealing of them aforesaid.

9 Wherefore, O king, seeing thou knowest all these things, be careful for the country, and our nation, which is pressed on every side, according to the clemency that thou readily shewest unto all.

10 For

23 Was desperately bent.] Or, rebelled.

NOTES on Chap. XIV.

Ver. 4 Were used solemnly in the temple.] Margin, Were thought to be of the temple.



10 For as long as Judas liveth, it is not possible that the state should be quiet.

11 This was no sooner spoken of him, but others of the king's friends being maliciously set against Judas, did more incense Demetrius.

12 And forthwith calling Nicanor, who had been master of the elephants, and making him governor over Judea, he sent him forth,

13 Commanding him to slay Judas, and to scatter them that were with him, and to make Alcimus high priest of the great temple.

14 Then the heathen that had fled out of Judea from Judas, came to Nicanor by flocks, thinking the harm and calamities of the Jews to be their welfare.

15 Now when the Jews heard of Nicanor's coming, and that the heathen were up against them, they cast earth upon their heads, and made supplication to him that had established his people for ever, and who always helpeth his people with manifestation of his presence.

16 So at the commandment of the captain, they removed straightways from thence, and came near unto them, at the town of Dessau.

17 Now Simon, Judas brother, had joined battle with Nicanor, but was somewhat discomfited through the sudden silence of his enemies.

18 Nevertheless, Nicanor hearing of the manliness of them that were with Judas, and the couragiousness that they had to fight for their country, durst not try the matter by the sword.

19 Wherefore he sent Posidonius, and Theodotus, and Mattathias to make peace.

20 So when they had taken long ad-

viseinent thereupon, and the captain had made the multitude acquainted therewith, and it appeared that they were all of one mind, they consented to the covenants,

21 And appointed a day to meet in together by themselves, and when the day came, and stools were set for either of them,

22 Judas placed armed men ready in convenient places, lest some treachery should be suddenly practised by the enemies: so they made a peaceable conference.

23 Now Nicanor abode in Jerusalem, and did no hurt, but sent away the people that came flocking unto him.

24 And he would not willingly have Judas out of his sight: for he loved the man from his heart.

25 He prayed him also to take a wife, and to beget children: so he married, was quiet, and took part of this life.

26 But Alcimus perceiving the love that was betwixt them, and considering the covenants that were made, came to Demetrius, and told him that Nicanor was not well affected towards the state; for that he had ordained Judas, a traitor to his realm, to be the king's successor.

27 Then the king being in a rage, and provoked with the accusations of the most wicked man, wrote to Nicanor, signifying that he was much displeased with the covenants, and commanding him that he should send Maccabeus prisoner in all haste unto Antioch.

28 When this came to Nicanor's hearing, he was much confounded in himself, and took it grievously that he should make void the articles which were agreed upon, the man being in no fault.

29 But

15 *The heathen were up against them.*] Or, were joined to them.

25 *Took part of this life.*] Or, lived together with him.

29 But because there was no dealing against the king, he watched his time to accomplish this thing by policy.

30 Notwithstanding, when Maccabeus saw that Nicanor began to be churlish unto him, and that he intreated him more roughly than he was wont, perceiving that such foul behaviour came not of good, he gathered together not a few of his men, and withdrew himself from Nicanor.

31 But the other knowing that he was notably prevented by Judas policy, came into the great and holy temple, and commanded the priests that were offering their usual sacrifices to deliver him the man.

32 And when they swore that they could not tell where the man was whom he sought,

33 He stretched out his right hand toward the temple, and made an oath in this manner, If you will not deliver me Judas as a prisoner, I will lay this temple of God even with the ground, and I will break down the altar, and erect a notable temple unto Bacchus.

34 After these words he departed. Then the priests lift up their hands towards heaven, and besought him that was ever a defender of their nation, saying in this manner,

35 Thou, O Lord of all things, who hast need of nothing, wast pleased that the temple of thine habitation should be among us :

36 Therefore now, O holy Lord of all holiness, keep this house ever undefiled, which lately was cleansed, and stop every unrighteous mouth.

37 Now was there accused unto Nicanor, one Razis, one of the elders of Jerusalem,

a lover of his countrymen, and a man of very good report, who for his kindness was called a father of the Jews.

38 For in the former times, when they mingled not themselves with the Gentiles, he had been accused of Judaism, and did boldly jeopard his body and life with all vehemency for the religion of the Jews.

39 So Nicanor willing to declare the hate that he bare unto the Jews, sent above five hundred men of war to take him.

40 For he thought, by taking him to do the Jews much hurt.

41 Now when the multitude would have taken the tower, and violently broken into the otter door, and bade that fire should be brought to burn it, he being ready to be taken on every side, fell upon his sword ;

42 Choosing rather to die manfully, than to come into the hands of the wicked, to be abused otherwise than becomed his noble birth :

43 But missing his stroke through haste, the multitude also rushing within the doors, he ran boldly up to the wall, and cast himself down manfully amongst the thickest of them.

44 But they quickly giving back, and a space being made, he fell down into the midst of the void place.

45 Nevertheless, while there was yet breath within him, being inflamed with anger, he rose up, and though his blood gushed out like spouts of water, and his wounds were grievous, yet he ran through the midst of the throng : and standing upon a steep rock,

46 When as his blood was now quite gone, he pluckt out his bowels, and taking them in both his hands, he cast them upon the throng, and calling upon the Lord of

4 M

life



life and spirit to restore him those again, he thus died.

### CHAP. XV.

5 *Nicanor's blasphemy.* 8 *Judas encourageth his men by his dream.* 28 *Nicanor is slain.*

**B**UT Nicanor hearing that Judas and his company were in the strong places about Samaria, resolved without any danger, to set upon them on the sabbath-day.

2 Nevertheless, the Jews that were compelled to go with him, said, O destroy not so cruelly and barbarously, but give honour to that day, which he that seeth all things, hath honoured with holiness above other days.

3 Then the most ungracious wretch demanded, if there were a mighty One in heaven, that had commanded the sabbath-day to be kept :

4 And when they said, There is in heaven a living Lord, and mighty, who commanded the seventh day to be kept :

5 Then said the other, And I also am mighty upon earth, and I command to take arms, and to do the king's business : yet he obtained not to have his wicked will done.

6 So Nicanor in exceeding pride and haughtiness, determined to set up a public monument of his victory over Judas and them that were with him.

7 But Maccabeus had ever sure confidence that the Lord would help him :

8 Wherefore he exhorted his people, not to fear the coming of the heathen against them, but to remember the help

which in former times they had received from heaven, and now to expect the victory and aid which should come unto them from the Almighty.

9 And so comforting them out of the law and the prophets, and withal putting them in mind of the battles that they won afore, he made them more cheerful.

10 And when he had stirred up their minds, he gave them their charge, shewing them therewithal the falshood of the heathen, and the breach of oaths.

11 Thus he armed every one of them, not so much with defence of shields and spears, as with comfortable and good words : and besides that, he told them a dream worthy to be believed, as if it had been so indeed, which did not a little rejoice them.

12 And this was his vision, That Onias, who had been high priest, a virtuous and a good man, reverend in conversation, gentle in condition, well spoken also, and exercised from a child in all points of virtue, holding up his hands, prayed for the whole body of the Jews.

13 This done, in like manner there appeared a man with gray hairs, and exceeding glorious, who was of a wonderful and excellent majesty.

14 Then Onias answered, saying, This is a lover of the brethren, who prayeth much for the people, and for the holy city, to wit, Jeremias the prophet of God.

15 Whereupon, Jeremias holding forth his right hand, gave to Judas a sword of gold, and in giving it, spake thus,

16 Take this holy sword, a gift from God,

### NOTES on Chap. XV.

Ver. 6 *Nicanor, in exceeding pride and haughtiness, &c.* Nicanor became so elate with his imagined success, and the victory, which he did not doubt but he should easily obtain, that he determined, in the pride of his soul, to perpetuate

so glorious an action, by erecting a public monument in memory of it. The conduct of Judas in this juncture was very different ; he placed his confidence not in the arm of flesh, in the strength and bravery of his troops ; but in the living God, who had often delivered him in the like emergencies.

God, with the which thou shalt wound the adversaries.

17 Thus being well comforted by the words of Judas, which were very good, and able to stir them up to valour, and to encourage the hearts of the young men, they determined not to pitch camp, but courageously to set upon them, and manfully to try the matter by conflict, because the city, and the sanctuary, and the temple were in danger.

18 For the care that they took for their wives and their children, their brethren, and kinsfolks, was in least account with them, but the greatest and principal fear was for the holy temple.

19 Also they that were in the city took not the least care, being troubled for the conflict abroad.

20 And now when as all looked what should be the trial, and the enemies were already come near, and the army was set in array, and the beasts conveniently placed, and the horsemen set in wings,

21 Maccabeus seeing the coming of the multitude, and the divers preparations of armour, and the fierceness of the beasts, stretched out his hands towards heaven, and called upon the Lord, that worketh wonders, knowing that victory cometh not by arms, but even as it seemeth good to him, he giveth it to such as are worthy.

22 Therefore in his prayer he said after this manner, O Lord, thou didst send thine angel in the time of Ezekias king of Judea, and didst slay in the host of Sen-

nacherib, an hundred fourscore and five thousand.

23 Wherefore now also, O Lord of heaven, send a good angel before us, for a fear and dread unto them.

24 And through the might of thine arm, let those be stricken with terror, that come against thy holy people to blaspheme. And he ended thus.

25 Then Nicanor and they that were with him, came forward with trumpets and songs.

26 But Judas and his company encountered the enemies with invocation and prayer.

27 So that fighting with their hands, and praying unto God with their hearts, they slew no less than thirty and five thousand men: for through the appearance of God they were greatly cheered.

28 Now when the battle was done, returning again with joy, they knew that Nicanor lay dead in his harness.

29 Then they made a great shout, and a noise, praising the Almighty in their own language.

30 And Judas, who was ever the chief defender of the citizens, both in body and mind, and who continued his love towards his countrymen all his life, commanded to strike off Nicanor's head, and his hand, with his shoulder, and bring them to Jerusalem.

31 So when he was there, and had called them of his nation together, and set the priests before the altar, he sent for them that were of the tower,

32 And

17 Thus being well comforted, &c.] Judas's men were so surprizingly encouraged by this harangue, that they eagerly longed for the engagement. In the mean time, Nicanor's army approached, and ranged in order of battle: which Judas seeing, after a short ejaculation to God for success, he joined battle, slew thirty-five thousand of the enemy, and obtained a complete victory. Among the

slain they found the body of Nicanor, which occasioned an universal joy among the people; and Judas, to shew his resentment at the blasphemies uttered by this impious man, ordered his head and right hand to be struck off, and fixed on the tower in Jerusalem, as a monument of the justice of God on so audacious an offender: and that the memory of so great a victory might not be forgotten, an



32 And shewed them vile Nicanor's head, and the hand of that blasphemer, which with proud brags he had stretched out against the holy temple of the Almighty.

33 And when he had cut out the tongue of that ungodly Nicanor, he commanded that they should give it by pieces unto the fowls, and hang up the reward of his madness before the temple.

34 So every man praised toward the heaven, the glorious Lord, saying, Blessed be he that hath kept his own place undefiled.

35 He hanged also Nicanor's head upon the tower, an evident and manifest sign unto all of the help of the Lord.

36 And they ordained all with a common decree, in no case to let that day pass without solemnity, but to celebrate the thir-

teenth day of the twelfth month, which in the Syrian tongue is called Adar, the day before Mardocheus day.

37 Thus went it with Nicanor : and from that time forth the Hebrews had the city in their power. And here will I make an end.

38 And if *I have done* well, and as is fitting the story, it is that which I desired ; but if slenderly and meanly, it is that which I could attain unto.

39 For as it is hurtful to drink wine or water alone : and as wine mingled with water is pleasant, and delighteth the taste : even so, speech finely framed, delighteth the ears of them that read the story. And here shall be an end.

annual festival is instituted to be kept on the thirteenth day of the month Adar, which answers to our February.

After this, the Jews enjoyed the quiet possession of their city, religion, and liberties.

The End of the APOCRYPHA.

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